

Wirksworth Junior School Newsletter- February 2025



Dear parents,

As January comes to an end, we reflect on how the colder weather has not stopped us from getting out and having a very busy four weeks in school.

We are Creative.



As the new year began Mrs Meehan organised an Author study for the Y5/6. The author was Elle McNicoll, who is an advocate for promoting the representation of neurodiversity in publishing. Elle has written a range of books for children and young adults. If you would like to watch the talk with your children at home, please follow the link below:

https://www.youtube.com/live/OsgQ_6yB8vI and inspire your children

they could be writers too.

We are Curious.

PC Coupland visited in January to discuss road safety with the children. They had the opportunity to ask many questions and learn about the rules for using e-scooters and how to stay safe on the roads. This session complemented the Year 6 pupils who had completed their Bike ability training earlier this month.

Crumble controllers in Y5/6 where they have been learning how to program a light to change colours and flash! It took a lot of determination and perseverance, but they all managed it in the end!

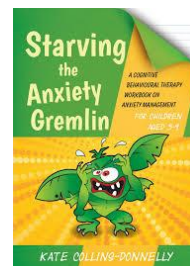


Seven Trent came into school to deliver an assembly all about the 'Wonderful World of Water'! We learned about the journey of water, including the water cycle and how water is processed by Seven Trent to make it safe for us to use. Then, we played a game of 'higher or lower' to make us think carefully about the amount of water we consume at home. Your child will be bringing home a leaflet, which includes activities and information about how to apply for a shower head, a

toothbrush or shower timer.

We are Caring.

Since January, the children have been learning about anxiety in school. This new initiative is designed to help them recognize their emotions and learn how to manage them healthily. Please ask your child what anxiety is and how it can manifest in different people. In the coming months, they will learn how people manage this and how they manage their emotions.



We make every moment count

I would like to express how proud I am of the cross-country runners who have worked incredibly hard to improve their skills since the beginning of November. Every Tuesday after school, we practiced running around the playground and field, learning the

Creative. Caring. Curious. We make every moment count.

differences between walking, jogging, running, and sprinting. We put this knowledge into practice last week at Whitworth Park.

Everyone gave their best effort, especially the Year 3/4 girls who achieved remarkable success. Erin who came 17th and Betsie who secured first place out of approximately 70 children from across the county. I truly enjoyed the experience, and I know the children did as well.

Children can come to school in PE kits on PE days-

From after half term, children can come to school in their PE Kit. For a reminder, the PE kit is listed below.

- Navy blue t-shirt with or without the school logo
- Navy shorts
- Dark trainers.
- Black plimsolls for indoor PE.
- Dark blue/black/grey joggers and tracksuit top or they can wear their school jumper or cardigan.
- Please ensure children are wearing school colours.

Please be aware football kits are not school uniforms and if children who come to school in this will be asked to change into shared PE kit that the school has.

The school needs some gardeners.



On Sunday March 9th at 10-12pm we are looking to improve your wellbeing and mental health by focusing on being active, getting outside, hopefully in the sunshine and helping out school to improve the children's learning environment. This invite has been sent out to the community of Wirksworth and working in conjunction with Wirksworth Mental Health Inistitutive.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CLICK ON THE LINK TO SIGN UP.

<https://forms.office.com/r/hMRnCy9iP>

Pupil spot- It was also pleasing to see that Running Club has inspired children to go out and do some running homework. Just before Christmas, Toby and Poppy tried running continuously and entered their 4th park run – well done to both of you, keep up the great work.



Private fostering and responsibilities.

This is our annual reminder about what private fostering is and your responsibility to contact DCC if you think your circumstance meets this criterion.

How to Identify a Privately Fostered Child

It constitutes private fostering if:

- The adult is not a close relative (close relative is defined as sibling, aunt, uncle, grandparent and stepparent).
- The child has left home and has moved in with someone that the PR holder is happy for them to live with.
- The child is unaccompanied, under 16, seeking asylum and intends to live with someone within their extended family and friend network.
- The arrangement is expected to last continuously for over 28 days.
- The child is from another country and stays with a host family for 28 days or more.



It does not constitute private fostering if:

- The adult is a close relative.
- The arrangement lasts less than 28 days.

The law says:

- Parents must tell the local authority in writing, six weeks before it is due to start and 48 hours after it has begun.

If you are unsure if your situation is private fostering telephone: **0800 083 77 44** or email privatefostering@derbyshire.gov.uk to discuss it.

Elective Home Education-update

Derbyshire County Council has brought out a 2-minute read about responsibilities for parents if they are considering homeschooling. To find this please [follow the link](#) or read the document attached.

Attendance figures are up slightly up from December- At 94.64% this is something to celebrate as it was up from December figure of 94.14%, but unfortunately it is still not up to our expected figure of 96%. If for any reason you are struggling to get your child into school or unsure if to send them in because of an illness, please call the school to discuss this with us, or speak directly with your child's class teacher.

Let us know when your child is unwell. Just a reminder to please call into school on the first day your child is unwell and let us know how long your child is unwell. We do expect you to call every day unless an illness such as sickness, where they should remain at home for 48 hours. As part of our ongoing safeguarding checks, we will make a call to check every day if we have not heard otherwise.

Clubs running after school in the Spring Term

Panda Club- the wraparound care has been renamed; they are now known as the Panda Club. Jamie and Abbie are working hard to plan exciting activities for the children to take part in.

If you are interested, please contact the school office to book and find out more information.

Important Dates

- Thursday 13th February – PTFA Valentine's Disco
- Friday 14th February – End of Half Term
- Monday 24th February – Back to School
- Thursday 27th February – Y5/6 Parent Information Event for Caythorpe Court & SATS 15:30pm
- Monday 17th – Wednesday 19th March - Caythorpe Court residential for Y5/6
- Wednesday 26th March – Mothering Service at St Mary's Church
- Friday 4th April – Easter service at St Mary's Church
- Friday 4th April – End of Term
- Tuesday 22nd April – Back to school

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