

# Wirksworth Junior School Newsletter- January 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all. We are all back and it was great to see lots of smiling faces in school, raring to go. Our newsletter will look back over December and hopefully remind you about all the fun and enjoyment the children have been having in school.



**We are Creative.** There were lots of opportunities this term to celebrate how creative the children have been. From the amazing Nativity led by the Y3/4 children, who dazzled us with their singing and acting to the Y5/6 Carol Concert in St. Mary's retelling the Christmas story through readings, poems, dances and songs. It was a spectacular end to the term.

## **We are Curious.**

The children in school have been learning about Trust during our

assemblies last term and how we cannot trust everyone we meet like in the bible story about Samson and Deliah, but also discussed how trust needs to be earned too, we need to show reliability for others to trust us.



This term we are focussing on fairness and how this does not always look the same. We will be reading ***Oliver Octopus and the unwinnable Game*** by ***Ben Okon***. This book explains the difference between Equity and Equality and how adaptations need to be made to make sure we all achieve our best. If you would like to share and discuss this with your child, use the following

link to a You tube reading of the book. [EQUITY VS. EQUALITY: Oliver Octopus and the Unwinnable Game - a Younger Me Academy book](#)

## **We are Caring.**

As mentioned in the last newsletter the children have been working on their own Attendance policy and how we can support them when they come back into the school after a short- or long-term sickness. Follow this [link](#) to the school website where you can read and see their policy and what we have agreed to offer to support your children in school.



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

## We make every moment count.



As part of our drive to improve attendance and pupils' mental health, we will be teaching a program of work which helps children to know what anxiety is, what this looks like in other people and themselves, as well as what things they can do to reduce their anxiety. The book we used is called Anxiety Gremlin by Kate Collins- Donnelly and compares anxiety to a gremlin and the need to starve this to complete tasks and events they normally find scary or frightening.

## What do you think?

Governors in school would like to review and update our logo and school uniform and wanted to know your views before we started the process. Please can you complete the survey before Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January so we can use this to inform our next stages. We will of course be speaking to the children about their views through the school council so we can get everybody's opinions before we make any changes.

<https://forms.office.com/e/SFASQyksy6>

## Wrap around Care

As you are aware, Premier Education have been running our Wrap Around Care provision from 7:30-9:00 and 3:25pm to 6pm every day. To sign your child/children up please follow the link [www.premier-education.com](http://www.premier-education.com)

## E-Safety Sessions for the rest of the academic year:

Below are the links to the upcoming E-safety sessions that are running over the coming year. You don't need to book onto these just click on the links to join.

- [Thursday 16th January 2025 2pm-3pm: Social Media - Apps, Usage, Images and Monitoring](#)
- [Tuesday 25th March 2025 5.30pm-6.30pm: Gaming and Parental Controls](#)
- [Tuesday 17th June 2025 7pm-8pm: Social Media - Privacy Settings and Supporting Children to Stay Safe and Well](#)

## Attendance figures.



Looking back over attendance figures for last term we were **95.5%**. I know Mrs Davies, our Attendance Officer, has been sending our congratulation emails for those attendance that is in the green zone of 96.5% or higher as well as sharing with some parents where it is below or well below this figure. We understand this is a complex area, with many factors on why your child does not have good attendance. In addition to respiratory illnesses, we are aware that more children may be absent from school due to symptoms of anxiety than before the pandemic. Worry and mild or moderate anxiety, whilst sometimes difficult emotions, can be a normal part of growing up for many children and young people.

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

Being in school can often help alleviate the underlying issues. A prolonged period of absence is likely to heighten a child's anxiety about attending in the future, rather than reduce it. If you feel your child is finding it hard to come into school, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance, where they can help support you and them to feel that school isn't just about learning. It's a warm, supportive environment where your child can get a healthy meal and see their friends.

**PTFA** Thanks to everyone that supported the PTFA Bauble run - we managed to raise a massive £410.50. This is fantastic and will help to fund the extra little bits in school. As mentioned by Mrs Matkin we are looking to put some of this money towards the new Sunshine Gym Equipment on the playground which we hope to have installed before the end of the school year, for the year 6 pupils to be able to use this.

The PTFA have had a busy term of fundraising and made £146.09 on the Christmas tuckshop and an additional £90.24 on the Christmas raffle. Thank you for all your support and generosity.

### **SEND spot**

As well as the support in school, Derbyshire County Council have their own Special Needs Offer to support children with additional needs. To find out more please follow the link. [Home - Derbyshire Local Offer](#)

### **Clubs running after school in the Spring Term**

- Monday- Friday Premier Education wraparound care from 7:30-9:00am and 3:25 to 6pm.
- Tuesday – running club until 4:15pm last session will be on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January.

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

### **Important Dates**

**Y6 Bikeability – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January (Auton Class)**

**Y6 Bikeability – Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January (Radcliffe Class)**

**Book Fair – Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January (More information on Class Dojo)**

**Parents evening – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January (Please see letter emailed on 06/01/25)**

**Cross Country Finals – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January (More details to follow)**

Wirksworth Junior School, Wash Green, Wirksworth, Derbyshire, DE4 4FD

Tel/Fax: (01629) 822457

Email: [office@wirksworth-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:office@wirksworth-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs Isabel Webb

Chair of Governors: Wilma Hyde.