

Wirksworth Junior School Newsletter- October 24



The school has only been back 4 weeks, yet we have been up to so many things. Here is the run down of the exciting learning that the children have been taking part in this month so far.

We are Creative.

The Year 3 and 4 children have a very musical start to the term as they started their weekly drumming lessons with Mrs Kirk. The children have hopefully been coming home sharing some of their rhythm games. This is a 16-week block of work they will be taking part in to enrich their music curriculum, which culminate in a concert which you will be invited to.

To continue to develop our music curriculum further, we have been lucky to be having Mrs Wilks, the singing guru in school, leading our whole school singing assemblies. She has booked to work with the children across the year and will be sharing some of these songs at our Harvest festival on Friday 25th October at St Mary's church, starting at 9:30am. We would be delighted to see you there and celebrate our harvest service.

We are Curious.



Whilst in Y5/6 the children have been developing their curiosity in science by investigating how to separate iron filings from sand using a range of equipment.

They have also been out and about in the school grounds during forest schools, learning the importance of fire safety and how to start a fire using these rules.



We are Caring.

During assemblies we are focusing our school value respect. Focusing on what good manners and what people think of you when you have good manners. The children have enthusiastically taken part in the Thank you, Please, Excuse me and sorry challenges to use these more often to show how caring and kind we are at Wirksworth Junior school.

We make every moment count.



As mentioned at the start of the newsletter the Y3/4 have had a busy start to the term. They have been out on their adventure day at Mount Cook. It was a wet, soggy day but the children took part in the low rope course, archery and developing their team building skills, working together to solve problems. Mrs Barkley was proud of the children's resilience to try out new skills and says the children were gelling really well as a class.

Whilst we mentioned lots of things going on in school. Rosie, Elizabeth, Samantha and Erin had their RAD ballet exams at the end of last term. Rosie passed her Grade 1 with Merit and Erin passed her Primary exam with High Merit. What creative and hard children we have in school.



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Whilst we have been discussing the creative arts Evie has been working her magic with her green fingers. Evie and her sister have won the tallest sunflower competition at a huge height of 2.78 m, which is amazing.

Governors sport- We are pleased to announce one of our new parent governors is Bea Middleton.

Here is Bea's bio.

I have recently moved to Wirksworth, and my three children will be going through the junior school over the next few years, so I feel I am invested in the welfare of the school. Outside of looking after the kids, I work in healthcare and

have some experience of school administration. I am passionate about inclusion, accessibility, and opportunities for all children, and hope that as a governor I can help parent voices be heard and help the school continue to improve for everyone.



As well as a new parent governor we also have a new clerk to governors this is Angela Gratton. If you wish to contact the governors for any reason, please do this via the following email address. clerk@wirksworth-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk

Congratulations to Mrs Potter

We are really pleased to announce that Mrs Potter has had a healthy baby girl, Orla Potter. We wish Mr and Mrs Potter a huge congratulations and best wishes.

Please see below a link for an advert for Catering Relief staff.

[Catering Assistant \(Belper, Ripley, Wirksworth, Ashbourne and Derby\) \(Relief\) \(derbyshire.gov.uk\)](#)

To apply for any of the catering roles please follow the link above and complete an online application.

Safeguarding information webinars for County lines

The Ivison Trust is offering a free Parent Awareness County Lines Webinar on 26th November 2024, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. This is an interactive webinar where they will share what criminal and sexual exploitation is, with a focus on county lines and online harms. They will explore how to spot signs that it may be happening to your child or a child you know. The interactive webinar will also give you the opportunity to ask questions, share concerns and connect with others. The sessions are co-delivered with a parent whose child has been a victim of exploitation.

To register and find out more please follow the link below. <https://ivisontrust-civi.org.uk/civicrm/event/info?id=31&reset=1>

Democracy - Encourage your child to have their say.

It is that time of year again when we are asking the children to apply to become a school councillor for their class. Last year the school council completed loads of actions, here are a few of the activities that the children took part in: updated the playground risk assessment, wrote letters to the local MP, raised money to get recycle bins in school, arranged for fruit to be sold in school as well as organising a whole school litter pick in Wirksworth. In the assembly this morning, we have explained the role to the children and given out application forms to those that are interested. The



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application form needs to be completed and sent to me by Monday 14th October and the winners will be announced on Monday 21st October in assembly.

Is my child too ill for school?

The NHS has brought out some guidance on when your child should come into school and how long they should stay off if they have a particular illness. Please follow the link to find out more.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Attendance matters

Attendance for the whole school in September was 96.6% which is above the school target of 96.5%. This is great and we thank you for working with us to keep attendance high in school.

We obviously do not want to be complacent; wanting to keep attendance above the acceptable level, so in school this year we are continuing to work with the children on hygiene and reducing the spread of bugs and viruses. We also are creating a program of support on dealing with worries and anxieties which can bring on symptoms of illnesses which can stop the children coming into school. One of these programs is known as the **Anxiety Gremlin** and we hope to start this in the spring term. In the autumn term, we are starting Nurture and learning about the zones of regulations; recognising our emotions and what they can do to manage these sometimes-intense feelings.

Important Dates

Tuesday 8th October – Whole school cross country
Thursday 10th October – Individual and sibling school photos
Thursday 17th October – Auton Class Assembly
Monday 21st October – Auton Class Parent's Evening
Tuesday 22nd October – Auton, Radcliffe & Knight Class Parent's Evening
Thursday 24th October – Radcliffe & Knight Parent's Evening
Friday 25th October – Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church
Friday 25th October – Last day of term
Monday 4th November – INSET Day
Wednesday 6th November – Y6 Bikeability Auton Class
Friday 8th November – Y6 Bikeability Radcliffe Class
Monday 11th November – Anti-bullying week

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Headteacher: Mrs Isabel Webb

Chair: Wilma Hyde

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