

# Wirksworth Junior School Newsletter- April 2026



Dear Parents,

This month has flown by, filled with a real buzz around the designing and making in school. It has been wonderful to be part of the learning taking place and to see the children's enjoyment as they develop new skills.

## We are Creative.

We enjoyed yet another vibrant and joyful World Book Day celebration! The school was buzzing with excitement as pupils and staff arrived in an array of imaginative costumes inspired by favourite characters and stories. Throughout the day, classes took part in shared reading sessions, creative writing activities, and book-themed challenges designed to spark curiosity and a love of reading. It was wonderful to see pupils discussing their favourite books, discovering new authors, and celebrating the power of stories together. A huge thankyou to everyone who contributed to making the day such a memorable highlight in our reading calendar!



Year 3 once again performed brilliantly for the whole school last week, showcasing the four musical notes they have been learning, as well as their growing confidence in reading music. The children have been working incredibly hard, and we were delighted to hear a selection of impressive solo performances too.

We are also excited to share that Year 3 have been invited to perform at **Derby Arena on 18th June**, where they will play alongside a real orchestra. This is a wonderful and rare opportunity for the children to experience live music-making on a large scale. They have now begun learning their part for this special event, and we can't wait to see their musical journey continue.

## We are Curious.

Over the past few weeks, our Year 4 and 5 pupils have been working exceptionally hard as they learn all about gears in preparation for building their own moveable vehicles. The children have shown fantastic focus and teamwork as they explored how gears work and how different combinations can solve mechanical challenges.

We were also delighted to welcome a STEM Ambassador, who spent time working with the classes and encouraging them to persevere as they tackled tricky gear problems. Their determination and problem-solving skills have been wonderful to watch. The children are excited to share their progress, and they will be demonstrating their moveable vehicles in their class assembly on **Thursday 23rd April at 9:00am**. We look forward to seeing many of you there!





**We are Caring.** Our Paper Bag Challenge has truly inspired pupils across the school this term. As we head towards the end of term, it will be exciting to discover just how many paper bags have survived daily use! Children have shown fantastic creativity in finding ways to use and reuse their bags — from storing mobile phones and carrying packed lunches, to holding sweets at the school disco. No matter how each child chose to use their bag, they've all taken time to reflect on the effort that goes into making even the simplest everyday items. This thoughtful activity has helped us consider how easily we take things for granted and reminded us how important it is to *appreciate what we have.*

**We make every moment count.**



Another successful Year 5/6 residential took place this month at Whitehall in Buxton. The children enjoyed a range of activities, including cycling, night walking with torches, climbing, and stream scrambling. Lifelong memories were made, and the children developed valuable skills that will support their growing independence.

**Attendance matters**

Whole school attendance for March was **97.3%**, placing us well above our target of **96%** — a fantastic achievement! Thank you to all families for your continued commitment to excellent attendance.

It's important to remember how much attendance matters. National data shows that pupils with **high attendance (95–100%)** by the end of primary school are **around 30% more likely** to reach the expected standard in reading, writing and maths by the end of Year 6 compared with pupils who miss just **2–4 weeks of school** across the year (90–95% attendance).



Strong progress in Year 6 also has a lasting impact. Children who achieve well in their SATs are far more likely to secure strong GCSE results, particularly in English and maths. Those who fall behind at primary often have to work much harder later on to catch up.

With our current attendance levels, we are in a strong position for pupils to perform well, make excellent progress, and achieve their very best. Let's keep it up!

**Year 6 SATS support for parents.** The department for Education has written a report to support parents understanding of the Year six which is coming up on May 11<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup>. Click on the link to find out more.

[KS2 SATs 2026: What parents need to know – The Education Hub](#)



### **Reminder: Parents Evening days are in April**

Remember that it is parents evening on **Tuesday 14th and Thursday 16 April** from 3:45 to 6:30pm which will be in school. Please let your class teacher know which session you would prefer.

### **Relationship and Education Policy update.**

Thank you for those parents who gave feedback on the policy, your ideas have been noted, and the policy has been updated and can be found on the school website by following the link.

[Policies and Procedures | Wirksworth Junior School](#)

**Reminder E-safety** – As part of keeping the children safe online, we have procured Traci Good, the iVengers guru who has won many awards in this area. Over the year, she has been leading some free online and possibly some face-to-face sessions for you. The next dates to pop in your diary are:

- May 12th **6pm - Photo and video sharing - risks and setting boundaries**
- June 18th **6pm - Recap of all of the above**

Although these events are free, the school is paying alongside the cluster of Gell schools to offer you these events for free. We encourage you to attend, as technology is always changing and these sessions allow not only skilling yourself on the new apps, but also opportunities to ask questions relevant to your circumstances. The links will be sent out via Class Dojo the day before and on the day.

You can also find other relevant information about E-safety on the school webpage by [clicking here.](#)

### **PTFA are after new members**

Are you looking to make a real difference in your child's school experience? Do you have hidden talents waiting to be unleashed? Then join our Parent Teacher and Friends Association (PTFA)!

We're a friendly, enthusiastic group of parents and carers who work together to:

- Raise vital funds for school resources and activities.
- Organize fun and engaging events for the whole school community.
- Strengthen the bond between parents, teachers, and children.
- Have a blast while making a positive impact!



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

Whether you're a fundraising whiz, a creative genius, a social media superstar, or simply someone who wants to lend a hand, we need YOU!

Don't wait! If you are interested call the school where we can help you make, contact with them.

Let's work together to make our school an even better place!

### **Panda Club in school**

Jamie and Abbie are offering wraparound care from 7:30 to 5:30pm every day. If you are interested, please follow the link to find out more.

[Wirksworth Junior School – Premier Education](#)



### **INSET days for 2025/2027**

- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2026

### **INSET days for 2026/2027**

- Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2026
- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2026
- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2027
- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2027

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2027

### **Important Dates**

- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April – First day back in school
- Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April – Parents evening.

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