



Wirksworth Junior School

Newsletter- July 2026



It always amazes me how quickly we come around to July again. June has been another month packed full of activities and learning, which we all enjoyed with the sun continuing to shine. Opposite we have a beautiful picture of the Year 6 out sailing which is inspiring and always astonishes me how much courage and team work the children have whilst they glide across the water at Carsington. Lots of lifelong memories made.

We are Creative.

The year 6 continued their outdoor learning by visiting Yorkshire Sculpture Museum. There was lots of chance to explore the art, discuss what we thought it represented and sketch our own representations of them.

Whilst the Y3 entertained went to perform with a real orchestra. This was a once in a lifetime experience to play alongside a professional orchestra! Professional musicians in the making, I think.





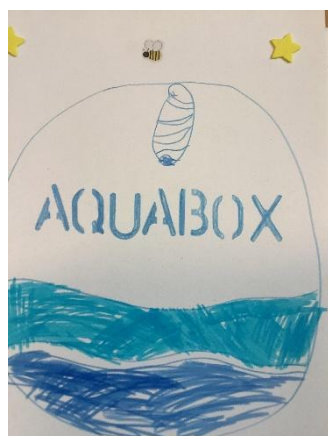
We also had the whole school poetry competition at the start of the month and what a fantastic assembly it was! The confidence, effort and enthusiasm on display were truly wonderful to see. The standard was incredibly high, with so many children bravely performing in front of others. We were particularly impressed by the creative use of props, the expression and clarity in their performances and the way many children were able to confidently remember entire verses (and even whole poems!). It was clear how much time and effort had gone into practising at home and we'd like to thank you for your continued support with this. Every child who took part should feel very proud of themselves – they all did an amazing job! Well done to everyone involved for making it such a memorable and inspiring event.

We are Curious.

In year 4 and 5 the children have been dissecting a tulip to identify all the different parts of the flower, including the male and female reproductive parts. It was fiddly work, but we all managed it and worked brilliantly in small groups.

We are Caring.

In the photo you can see the year 5 cricket team, Mrs Potter mentioned how proud she was of the children for not giving up, demonstrating caring attitude to each, supporting each throughout. These are great sportsmanship skill; she also mentioned that they improved dramatically throughout the day so well done the year 5 cricket team!



To continue promoting our caring and supportive school values, two members of Hamilton Class have been selling cakes on Fridays to raise money for AquaBox as part of their Brownie charity badges.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the girls in this wonderful effort. We hope they are able to achieve their Brownie badges—they certainly deserve it!

We make every moment count.

Darley Dale school and competed in the South Peak Sports event. They showed a real team spirit, togetherness and perseverance to do their best. I am so proud of all of them. A special thanks goes out to Mrs Bradbury, Oleg and Mrs Peach



These events demonstrate the school's drive to improve the amount of



physical exercise in school, and we are also pleased to announce for the second year running, we have won the School Games Gold Award. This award is only given to schools that are giving children an opportunity for all children to take part in competitive and sporting events and take part in 60 minutes of exercise a day, along with other sporting criteria. We are immensely proud of this award and your children's events in taking part in these events.

Classes for next year

Just a reminder, transition day is on Wednesday, 8th July. All children have been told who their teachers are and the new classrooms they will be in. We have one new teacher for September, Mrs Prince who will be job sharing with Mrs Cooke in year 4, and the children will meet her for the first time on Wednesday. She has written a few words for us.



Hi, my name is Mrs Prince and I'm really excited to be joining the team at Wirksworth Juniors from September. I live in a small village near Bakewell with my husband, 2 daughters, who are 15 and 13, and our pet cat Bramble! I have been a teacher for nearly 20 years now and love being in the classroom! Outside of work I enjoy singing in my village choir, performing on my clarinet in local concerts and reading lots of books - preferably in the garden with the sun shining! I'm really looking forward to getting to know my new class and everyone else in and around school and I'd just like to say thank you to Mrs Webb and the staff for inviting me to be join school as one of your teachers!

Reminder of what Private Fostering is and when action needs to be taken.

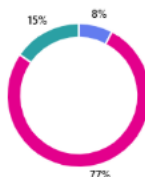
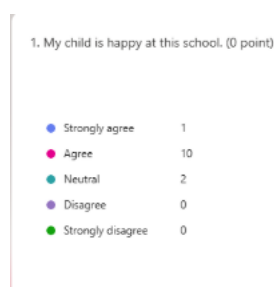


If a child aged under 16 years (or under 18 years if they're disabled) stays with people who are not related to them for 28 days or more, this is known as a private fostering arrangement and special rules apply.

The 28 days don't have to be continuous. If a child regularly stays with a school friend's family and this arrangement adds up to 28 days or longer, after which they return home to the full-time care of their parents, this wouldn't be a private fostering arrangement. However, if a child is cared for by a non-relative or legal guardian but returns to the parent at weekends, then this is a private fostering arrangement. To find out more follow the link below.

<https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/social-health/children-and-families/foster/private-fostering/private-fostering.aspx>.

Parent survey. Thank you.



Thank you everyone for taking part in the parent survey. The results showed a really positive picture of support and thanking the teachers for the support they are giving your children. The survey is attached with your responses.

You suggested the following areas to work on:

- Ensuring you know what your child is covering in school
- Ensuring the use of Class Dojos is consistently applied to reward the children who are continuously doing the right thing.
- More activities off site.

We will take these three items and feed them into our school improvement plan and work on them in the coming year.

With such positivity, we would like your support to share this and create a marketing strategy and wondered if anyone would be interested in joining this working group. We hope to meet on Wednesday 15th July at 9:00am to discuss small steps to share what we are doing well and get it out in the community. If you are interested in this, please complete the survey or if you can't make this time, any ideas on the survey would be much appreciated. [Marketing Group for Wirksworth Junior School – Fill in form](#)

Attendance figure

In June, the whole school attendance figure was **96.2%**, which is very close to our target of **96.5%**—fantastic news. This is also higher than our attendance for the same period last year. We are really pleased that attendance is rising in the school. We have also seen a reduction in requests for holidays during term time, and we thank you for your continued support in helping us improve attendance.

One area we are currently focusing on is punctuality. Ensuring children arrive at school on time is very important, as lateness is recorded as an unauthorised absence.

Currently, our attendance for the whole school year is 96.4% and we are ranked 77th out of 352 schools in Derbyshire, and nationally we are ranked in the top 10-20% of schools. This is excellent news, and we thank you for your efforts to get your children into school consistently. However, we cannot get complacent as we are in the bottom 50-60% of schools nationally attendance for children for have SEND and have free school meals.

Please do contact the school if you are finding it hard to get your child into school and need support, Mrs Davies will help work with you on the barriers to coming into school, and we may be able to signpost you to support.



Summer Fair

What a great summer fair, the sun shone, and we had lots of smiling faces. The first one run by the PTFA in seven years. Thank you for supporting us and thank you to the staff and PTFA for organising this. We managed to raise over £1000 from this event.



Remember you have the right to Speak out and Stay safe especially during the holidays!

CHILDLINE 0800 11 11

- **Childline links: Online with 1-2-1 chat or email counselling at** www.childline.org.uk
- **For d/Deaf children:** [Deaf Zone](#) and [Sign Video Service](#)
- **Kids area for support, advice and things to make and play** [Childline | Childline & Activities for kids at home | NSPCC](#)
- [Buddy Zone](#) for more safety advice for children

Important dates

- Wednesday 8th July Year 6 and Year 2 Transition Days
- Tuesday 14th July -Sports Day (AGS) in the afternoon
- Wednesday 15th July Year 4/5/6 production (evening performance) starting at 6:30pm. **(Please note – this is subject to change depending on England in the World Cup)**
- Thursday 16th July Year 4/5/6 production (afternoon performance) starting at 1.30pm.
- Thursday 23rd July Year 6 leaver's service at 9:30am.

INSET days 2026-2027

- Friday 4th September 2026 (summer break ends on the Thursday)
- Friday 23rd October 2026 (cluster INSET)
- Monday 22nd February 2027 (day after half term)
- Monday 7th June 2027 (day after half term)
- Monday 26th July 2027 (the children break up on the Friday)

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

Tel/Fax: (01629) 822457

Email: office@wirksworth-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Isabel Webb

Chair: Wilma Hyde