Wirksworth Junior School Newsletter- March 2026

Dear Parents,

Another fun packed month of events, including a class assembly, a panto, a basketball competition and the blossoming of the crocus and daffodils bulbs we planted in September in the school garden. Definitely lots to be thankful for.

We are Creative.

After weeks of hard work, Year 3's performing a dazzling performance of Jack and the beanstalk. The children showed lots of bravery standing in front of over a hundred people, singing, acting and dancing to a delighted audience.

We are Curious.

Fuelling their inherent curiosity, students delved into online relationships and responsible information management during E-safety day this month. They learnt about artificial intelligence and how to keep themselves safe and recognise deep fake images. The children also updated their child friendly policy which can be found on the school website.

We are Caring.

As part of our commitment to improving the environment and reducing plastic waste, the children have walked around Wirksworth putting up posters in the shop windows to encourage others to reduce their plastic waste. The community have been amazing as lots of shop keepers agreed to put up our posters for free. Do look out for these.

Also, it has been great to see the children taking part in the paper bag challenge.
Every child has been given a brown paper bag. The aim is to see how long they can keep using the same bag—whether that's for a week, two weeks, or all the way until we break up for Easter on Friday 27th March. Lots of children have been working hard with this and it was great to see them being used at the school disco whilst others have used it to store their toys or carry their forest school items to school. A great opportunity to Appreciate what we have, one of our big questions in Geography and DT.

We make every moment count.

For the end of term Class Dojo prize, 23 children achieved over 125 Class Dojo points and went out with out with Mr Wisner and myself to maple field near Pittywood farm to help plant trees. They did a fantastic job and did well to persevere in the wet conditions. These will hopefully be mature trees by time the children are in their 30's. Maybe they can visit the trees they planted if they have their own children one day.

Basketball competition

At the beginning of February, a group of eight year 4 and 5 children competed at the Y5/6 basketball competition with eight other schools from our cluster. The children showed a lot of skills and there were some amazing baskets thrown from quite far out. The children demonstrated great team spirit and really enjoyed practising and taking part in the whole event. Thanks to Miss Stevens and Mrs Cooke for preparing them for the event.

Poetry competition

The whole school is taking part in a poetry competition. There will be two rounds. The first round: They will perform their poems to the class on Thursday 5th March. The class will then choose three winners/groups. The second and final round will be held on Tuesday 10th March, in the hall. The competitors' parents will be invited to watch the performance. The winning group will be announced in celebration assembly on Friday 13th March. Good luck everyone.

Welcoming New Parent Governor

We are delighted to introduce our new parent governor Carl McDonagh. He has said - I moved to Wirksworth in 2007 when I became a Senior Practitioner in Children's Social Work in Derbyshire. Prior to returning to Social Work I had a career in community work, politics and local government scrutiny in London.

In 2016 my son Sèamus was born and as a family we love the life we have found here in the wonderful Derbyshire Dales.

Becoming a Parent Governor is my way of putting something back into the community and school we share. As a Parent Governor it is important to give representation to the schools children, their parents and carers.

Easter Challenges

The year is whizzing by, and it will not be long until we will be celebrating Easter again. Our service will be on Friday 27th March at 9:30am at St. Mary's Church. Also on this day will be our Easter Challenges, please see the poster opposite for more information, which can also be found on Class Dojo. There will be prizes for all children that take part.

World Book Day 2025

World Book Day is taking place today and we all get to wear costumes associated with a book character. I know Mrs Cooke has planned some exciting events. Look out for the photos.

School's disco

Thank you to the PTFA for organising the school's disco. It was a fantastic event, and we managed to make **£182.87** from your kind donations. Thank you once again for supporting the school.

Attendance figures.

Attendance this month was **96.1%**, which is above our target of **96%**. This is fantastic and shows that the vast majority of our children are regularly coming into school.

However, one area we need to improve to raise attendance even further is punctuality. Around 50% of our absences are due to children arriving after the register has closed. Frequent lateness can develop habits that carry into later life and may affect reliability and routines in the workplace.

Encouraging all children to arrive on time every day will help them start each morning calmly, fully access their learning, and build positive lifelong habits. If you would like help with this area, please speak initially with your child's class teacher.

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 26th June 2026

INSET days for 2026/2027

- Friday 4th September 2026
- Friday 23rd October 2026
- Monday 22nd February 2027
- Monday 7th June 2027
- Monday 26th July 2027

Important Dates

- Tuesday 10th March – Poetry Competition
- Wednesday 25th March – PTFA Easter Tuck Shop afterschool
- Thursday 27th March – Easter Service at St. Mary's Church 9:30am
- Thursday 27th March – Last day of term
- Monday 13th April – First day back in school

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