

Wirksworth Junior School Newsletter- End of year 2026



Dear parents,

The school year is ending, and I would like to share the reflection of the year and send a good luck to the year 6 moving up to Anthony Gell. Below are photos of our happy children which I hope reflects the whole year, full of lots of happy, fun learning for all.



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

Autumn Term-

As we welcomed our Year 3 and 4 pupils into school, we began the term with a visit to Lea Green, where the children built new friendships and took part in a range of team-building activities. Year 5 enjoyed a skateboarding experience at Darley Dale, and we all had the opportunity to visit either the Mosque or the Mandir in Derby, where we learnt about different faiths and how people worship.

Following our traditional singing around the Christmas tree, the PTFA organised another successful Bauble Run, helping to raise valuable funds for the school.



A particular highlight this term was watching *The Snowman* in Derby, accompanied by a live orchestra. The children were also treated to a performance of Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*, making it a memorable musical experience for everyone.



Spring term

The new year began with the first of what we hope will be many poetry competitions. We would like to thank all the children who bravely volunteered to learn a poem by heart and perform it in front of the whole school. Standing up to recite a poem in front of an audience is a daunting task at any age, let alone when you are between seven and eleven years old, and we were incredibly proud of everyone who took part.

Rainy weather was a feature of much of this term, but it did not stop our Gardening Club from getting outside to sow vegetables. We are looking forward to harvesting the fruits of their hard work in the autumn term of the next academic year.

We also launched the Paper Bag Challenge, encouraging children to think about sustainability and reducing waste. It is wonderful to know that many children are still using their paper bags now.

Year 5 and 6 enjoyed a visit to White Hall, where they demonstrated their impressive forest school skills. The instructors were highly complementary about the children's knowledge, confidence and practical abilities, reflecting the regular outdoor learning opportunities they experience in school. Meanwhile, Year 4 and 5 put their design and technology skills to the test by learning how to create movable vehicles, combining creativity with engineering and problem-solving skills.



Summer Term



As the sun finally began to shine, Year 6 successfully completed their SATs before enjoying a well-deserved trip to Carsington Water, where they took to the water in boats and embraced new challenges. The PTFA also held its first Bingo Night for many years, and many of you commented on what a fantastic success it was, bringing our school community together for a fun-filled evening.

Year 3 entertained us with their end-of-year concert, proudly showcasing the musical skills they have developed throughout the year. They also had the incredible opportunity to perform alongside an orchestra at Derby Arena – a truly once-in-a-lifetime experience. We hope this memorable event inspires some of our young musicians to pursue music as a hobby or even a future career.

Year 6 visited the Yorkshire Sculpture Park as part of their topic, *Is It Better to Stand Out or Fit In?* The sculptures certainly gave them plenty to think about as they explored a range of striking artworks and reflected on what they liked, disliked and found thought-provoking. Seeing and studying the artwork first-hand brought their learning to life and prompted some excellent discussions.

Year 5 represented the school brilliantly at a local cricket competition, demonstrating great teamwork, determination and sportsmanship. We also entered a team of enthusiastic athletes into the South Peak Sports event, where there were many personal best performances and a fantastic display of encouragement and support for one another throughout the competition.

Later in the term Scarlett and Holly both got their brownie badges for raising money for charity, raising £56.85 for Aquabox. Thank you to everybody who supported them both; we are super proud of what they have achieved.



As we neared the end of the term, Years 4, 5 and 6 delighted audiences with their fantastic end-of-year production. Through a wonderful selection of songs and performances, we journeyed through the history of popular music from the 1960s to the present day. The children sang, acted and performed with confidence, enthusiasm and great energy, demonstrating the hard work and commitment they had shown throughout rehearsals.

The production also carried an important message: although we are all unique and different, we achieve our greatest successes when we come together and work as one. It was heartwarming to see every child play their part in creating such an amazing performance. There were certainly plenty of smiles, proud moments and lasting memories, making it the perfect way to end a successful and enjoyable term.

Attendance Matters

Thank you to everyone who has supported our attendance policy and helped ensure their children attend school regularly. We are delighted to share that, as a whole school, we have achieved our attendance target of **96%**. This is a fantastic achievement and means we are ranked within the **top 10–20% of schools nationally**.



One area where attendance can be more challenging is for some children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), who may find coming to school more difficult. If your child is experiencing anxiety about school, is reluctant to attend, or is a school refuser, please do not hesitate to ask for support.

We are committed to working closely with families and can offer strategies, guidance, and tailored support to help children feel confident and successful in attending school regularly. Together, we can ensure that every child has the best possible opportunity to learn, thrive, and achieve their full potential.

Feedback from the Parents' Survey

Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to our recent survey. All responses were anonymous; however, if you would like to discuss any of your comments personally, please do not hesitate to contact the school office to arrange an appointment. My door is always open.

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with three key areas identified for development:

1. Knowing More About What Children Are Learning

Staff will be meeting in September to discuss how we can communicate more clearly with parents and carers about the learning taking place in school.

2. Fairness in the Rewards System

We will also be meeting with staff in September to ensure consistency across the school in the awarding of Class Dojo points and rewards. This will include recognising positive behaviours such as keeping dinner tables tidy and demonstrating good manners during lunchtime.

3. More Trips and Activities

We are pleased to share that additional trips, visits, and enrichment activities are being planned and will be communicated to you during the new academic year.

Thank you for your continued support and for helping us to make our school the best it can be.

Safety of Children Walking Home

Thank you for supporting the children coming into school safely this year and picking them up from the playground at the end of the day. Just to remind you that in September Years 3, 4, and 5 children will continue to be collected from the playground. Only Year 6 pupils will be permitted to walk home alone; however, children will only be allowed to walk home if you have sent in written or emailed permission to the school office. We will send a reminder before the start of term. If you have any concerns about this, please do call the office and speak to me directly.

Class names

Next year we will be changing our class names to famous local people which we will be learning about.

- Year 5/6 class called Dalton after Timothy Dalton
- Year 4 class call Bright after Millie Bright

- Year 3 class call MacArthur named after Ellen MacArthur.

We plan to write to them in the autumn term and ask them some questions about their younger life's growing up.

School Improvements Over the Holidays

We have several improvement projects planned over the summer break. During the first few days of the holidays, the rear playground wall will be lowered so that it is the same height all the way around. We will also be installing new carpets in the classrooms, ensuring they are fresh and ready for the start of the new academic year.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year of learning and achievement.

Family First newsletter – this is free from the NHS and social care. To view this follow the link <https://familyfirst.co.uk/magazines/family-first-issue-3-2026/>



Staffing Updates for September 2026

As we come to the end of another successful school year, we are sadly saying goodbye to Mr Wisner and Miss Sloane, who will both be greatly missed by staff and pupils alike. We thank them for their dedication and hard work, and we wish them every success and happiness in their new roles.

We would also like to let you know that Mrs Peach will be changing roles from September. She will be joining our team of supply staff and, although she will no longer be in school as a regular teaching assistant, we are delighted that she will continue to support the school and our children when needed.

We are pleased to welcome Mr Elliott, who will be greeting families on the school gate each morning, and Mrs Ward, who will be supporting at the end of the school day. Thank you in advance for giving them a warm welcome as they help us to keep our school safe, secure and welcoming for everyone.

We look forward to working together in the new academic year and thank you for your continued support.

Free Art session in school next year - In partnership with Wirksworth Festival and Learning Through Arts, is delighted to offer (free of charge) to all children at Wirksworth Junior School the opportunity to take part in music-making and dance workshops as part of a 2026 "Children's Festival". The children will also have the opportunity to perform pieces created in the workshops at the Community Celebration Event on Sunday 20th September at the National Stone Centre, if they should wish to do so and can be supported to be there. Something to look forward to in the new academic year, more information about the event will be shared in the new term!

School Uniform

We currently have a large amount of unclaimed school uniform. Please feel free to pop into school to collect any items you may need. Mrs Herbert has been distributing unnamed items. In September, we will be ensuring all children are wearing the correct school uniform. If you need anything, please come in and collect it before the new term begins.

Goodbye and Good Luck, Year 6

As we approach the final week for our Year 6 pupils, I want to say how proud we are of this resilient group. We look forward to celebrating their achievements on Thursday, 23rd July at 9:30am in the school hall. We hope to see all Year 6 parents there.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 7th September.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Webb

Reminder of INSET days 2026-2027

Our INSET days for the next school year will be as follows:

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

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