Wirksworth Junior School Newsletter- February 2026

Dear parents,

As January comes to an end, we reflect on how the colder weather has not stopped us from getting out and having a very busy three weeks in school.

We are Creative.

The Year 6 children wowed us with their creative writing during their assembly to parents. They showcased impressive skills in crafting emotive letters and demonstrated a clear understanding of climate change and coastal erosion, including the impact this can have on homes and communities. Their confident delivery and clearly spoken presentation highlighted their excellent oracy skills.

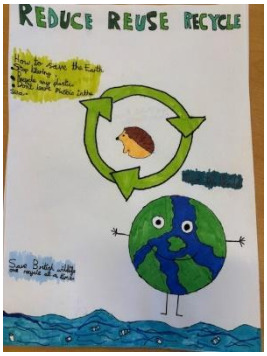
Meanwhile, our Year 3 children enjoyed a trip to The Northern Light Cinema to watch a recorded performance of *Alice in Wonderland*. This experience helped them learn more about staging, characterisation, and the features of theatre performance as they begin preparing for their own production of *Jack and the Beanstalk* later this month

We are Curious.

Last week, we were delighted to welcome PC Kirsty Hunt into school. She spoke with the children about her role in the community, the importance of recognising and reporting hate crimes, and how to keep themselves safe when using group chats.

The highlight for many was getting to sit inside the police car—and even set off the sirens! It was a memorable and exciting experience for all the children.

We are Caring.



Since January, the children have been exploring different ways to reduce plastic waste in school. They have produced a range of thoughtful and creative posters to help promote this message, and these will soon be displayed around Wirksworth.

Our School Council will be judging the posters this afternoon, and the winning designs will be announced later this week. These posters will then be shared around the town to encourage our wider community to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

We make every moment count

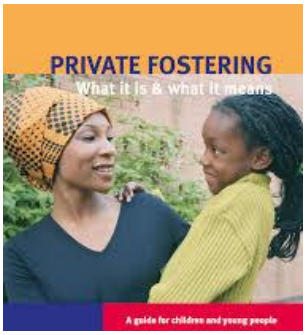
Despite the mud and rain, our Year 5 and Year 6 children have been thoroughly enjoying their Forest School sessions. They have been busy building dens and learning how to safely use bow saws, practising their cutting skills using old Christmas trees. The children showed great teamwork, resilience, and enthusiasm—whatever the weather!

Reminder of school uniform.

A polite reminder that children should only wear small stud earrings in school. These must be removed before PE lessons, as covering them with tape does not keep children safe. Thank you for supporting our school policy and helping us keep everyone safe during physical activity.

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

Private fostering and responsibilities.



This is our annual reminder about what private fostering is and your responsibility to contact DCC if you think your circumstance meets this criterion.

How to Identify a Privately Fostered Child

It constitutes private fostering if:

- The adult is not a close relative (close relative is defined as sibling, aunt, uncle, grandparent and stepparent).
- The child has left home and has moved in with someone that the PR holder is happy for them to live with.
- The child is unaccompanied, under 16, seeking asylum and intends to live with someone within their extended family and friend network.
- The arrangement is expected to last continuously for over 28 days.
- The child is from another country and stays with a host family for 28 days or more.

It does not constitute private fostering if:

- The adult is a close relative.
- The arrangement lasts less than 28 days.

The law says:

- Parents must tell the local authority in writing, six weeks before it is due to start and 48 hours after it has begun.

If you are unsure if your situation is private fostering telephone: **0800 083 77 44** or email privatefostering@derbyshire.gov.uk to discuss it.

Attendance figures are up slightly up from December-

Our current whole-school attendance stands at 95.6%, which is just below our target of 96%. We have also noticed that a number of children are arriving late to school. Please be aware that late arrivals are recorded as unauthorised, and these account for 3.5% of our overall non-attendance.

If you are finding it difficult to get your child into school for the 8:55am start, please do come and speak to us. We are here to help and can work with you to establish morning routines that set children up for success—not only in primary school, but also as they move into secondary school and, eventually, the workplace.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us improve attendance and punctuality.

Let us know when your child is unwell. Just a reminder to please call into school on the first day your child is unwell and let us know how long your child is unwell. We do expect you to call every day unless an illness such as sickness, where they should remain at home for 48 hours. As part of our ongoing safeguarding checks, we will make a call to check every day if we have not heard otherwise.

Clubs running after school in the Spring Term

Tuesdays – Gymnastics club 3:30 – 4:30pm
Thursdays – Football club 3:30 – 4:30pm
Monday – Fridays - Panda Club 3:30 – 5:30pm
Wirksworth Junior School – Premier Education

Important Dates

- W/C Monday 9th February – Y6 Bikeability
- Wednesday 11th February – Y3 Panto (tickets available on ParentPay)
- Thursday 12th February – Y3 Panto (tickets available on ParentPay)
- Friday 13th February – Last day of school
- Monday 23rd February – INSET Day
- Tuesday 24th February – First day of school
- Wednesday 25th February – School Disco (tickets available on ParentPay)
- Monday 2nd – Wednesday 4th March – Year 5/6 Residential trip to Whitehall
- Thursday 5th March – World Book Day
- Friday 27th March – Easter Service at St Mary's 9:30am

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