Wirksworth Junior School Newsletter- January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all. We are all back and it was great to see lots of smiling faces in school today, raring to go. Our newsletter will look back over December and hopefully remind you about all the fun and enjoyment the children have been having in school.

We are Creative.

Our Christmas Carol Service this year was a wonderful showcase of the creativity and talent within our school. Each year group brought something special to the occasion. Year 3 delighted us with their progress in learning the flute, filling the church with the first few notes they had been learning. Years 4 and 5 shared poems, performed with confidence and expression. Year 6 captivated the audience with an imaginative dance piece, symbolising the lights that guided the wise men to baby Jesus.

It was a truly memorable event that highlighted the artistic gifts of our pupils and the joy of coming together as a school community. Well done to all involved!

We are Curious.

At the beginning of December, the whole school enjoyed a special trip to watch *The Snowman* and Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*. For one enchanting hour, the children sat mesmerised as a live orchestra brought these classic stories to life. The music filled their young minds with wonder and curiosity—perhaps inspiring some to dream of becoming musicians or performers in the future.

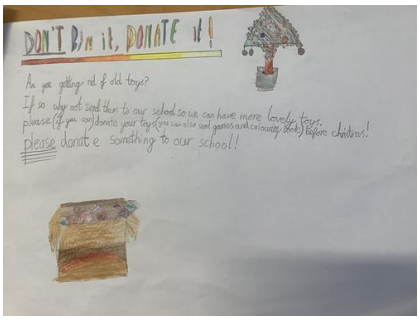
It was an unforgettable experience that combined the magic of storytelling with the power of live music.

We are Caring.

Thank you to everyone that supported the PTFA Bauble run - we managed to raise a massive £632.84. This is fantastic and will help to fund the extra little bits in school. And although we were inside for our singing around the Christmas tree it was very atmospherically and got us in the Christmas mood.

Thank you for all your support and generosity.

We make every moment count.



Are you looking to have a clear out after Father Christmas has been?

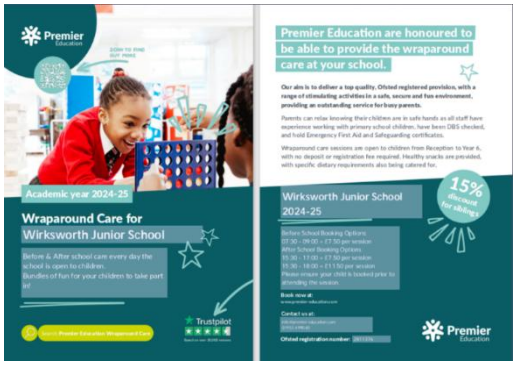
Well school council are asking if you have any unwanted toys that could be used for wet play times in school. These need to be toys with very few parts, in case they go missing.

Good ideas are Lego, colouring books, toy cars, dolls, card games etc. If you have any, please bring them into the school office where they can be distributed around school.

Keep healthy this winter

- Education Hub Blog: Reducing the spread of illness this winter: Seven steps to healthier schools and higher school attendance – please share this blog with parents and staff.
- NHS Guidance for Parents: Is my child too ill for school? – a useful resource to help parents decide when children should stay at home.
- Preventing and Controlling Infections Guidance: Includes advice on vaccination, ventilation, and good respiratory hygiene.
- A–Z of managing Infectious Diseases: Practical guidance on managing specific illnesses.

Wrap around Care



As you are aware, Premier Education have been running our Wrap Around Care provision from 7:30-9:00 and 3:25pm to 6pm every day. To sign your child/children up please follow the link www.premier-education.com

E-Safety Sessions for the rest of the academic year:

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 led some free online and possibly face-to-face sessions for you. The next dates to pop in your diary are:

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. If you would like to see a previous session, please follow the link.

- Jan 7th **1.30pm AI - risks and rewards**
- Feb 9th - **6pm - Setting parental controls**
- March 12th **6pm - Parasocial relationships**
- May 12th **6pm - Photo and video sharing - risks and setting boundaries**
- June 18th **6pm - Recap of all of the above**

Attendance figures.

Our whole-school attendance for December was 93.9%, which is slightly below our target of 96%. Good attendance is vital because every day in school helps children build on their learning and maintain the flow

of lessons. Missing even a single day can make it harder for them to keep up with new concepts and classroom activities.

Children attend school for 190 days each year, leaving 175 days for holidays and family time. If you're planning a day out, please consider the impact—not only on academic progress but also on friendships and social development. Regular attendance gives children the best chance to succeed and feel confident in their learning.

Thank you for supporting us in helping every child reach their full potential!

<u>Clubs running after school in the Spring Term</u>

- Monday- Friday Premier Education wraparound care from 7:30-8:45am and 3:25 to 6pm.
- Monday – Sport club until 4:15pm with the sports apprenticeship Amelia.

If you are interested, please contact the school office to book and find out more information.

<u>Important Dates</u>

Wednesday 7th January – Y3 at the Stone Centre
Tuesday 13th and Thursday 15th January – Parents Evening (see letter sent 05.01.2026)
Monday 9th, Tuesday 10th, Thursday 12th and Friday 13th February – Y6 Bikeability (More details to follow)
Wednesday 11th February – Y3 Panto (More details to follow)
Friday 13th February – Last day of school
Monday 23rd February – INSET Day
Tuesday 24th February – First day of school

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