

Wirksworth Junior School Newsletter- December 25



Where did November go? Despite it whizzing by so quickly we have been up to lots.

We are Creative.

Year 3 have been busy learning to play the flute and have now taken their instruments home to practise for our **Christmas Carol Service at St. Mary's Church on Friday 19th December**. The children are thrilled to be learning a new skill and can already play three notes with growing confidence!

It's wonderful to see their enthusiasm as they explore music and prepare to share their talents with family and friends during this special festive celebration. We're sure their performance will add a magical touch to the service and make it an event to remember!



We are Caring.



As part of our caring school motto, the children have been learning about the importance of anti-bullying. They recently helped update our Anti-Bullying Policy and took part in a survey to share their thoughts on where they feel safe and what changes they would like to see.

The feedback was incredibly valuable. This week, the School Council will meet to discuss ideas for making our toilets feel safer and ensuring that all adults on duty at lunchtime are actively supporting positive play and helping to resolve any playground disagreements.

We are proud of our children for taking such an active role in shaping a safe and happy school environment. Together, we are building a community where everyone feels respected and cared for.

We are Curious



This month, our children have been broadening their cultural horizons with visits to a Hindu Mandir and an Islamic Mosque. These experiences gave them the chance to ask thoughtful questions and learn about the traditions and practices of different religions. The children were fascinated to see how worship in Hinduism and Islam differs from Christianity, while also noticing the many values and beliefs that unite these faiths.

Through these visits, the children developed respect and understanding for diversity, and discovered that, although we may worship in different ways, kindness, community, and spirituality are values we all share.

We make every moment count.

Last week, our whole school took part in the annual Fun Run—and what an amazing day it was! The playground and field were filled with smiling faces, determination, and plenty of cheering as every child gave their best effort.

We were so proud to see the resilience and teamwork on display, and many children proudly received medals for their fantastic participation. The feedback from the children was wonderful—they



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

told us how much fun they had and how excited they are to do it all again next year!

As well as our fantastic Fun Run, six of our children proudly represented the school at a recent Boccia event. Their focus, precision, and accuracy were outstanding, and we are delighted to share that they made it through to the second round!

This achievement is a testament to their hard work and determination, and we couldn't be prouder of their efforts. Well done to all involved—you've inspired us with your teamwork and sporting spirit!

Attendance matters

We're proud to share that our school is in the top 20% nationally for attendance last half term – an amazing achievement! Thank you for your continued effort in getting your children to school on time, and being recognised by the Department for Education is really an exceptional achievement. This has not stopped here as our attendance for November was 96.2%, which is above our target and something that helps us be in the top 20% of schools nationally.

As always, we continue to want to help and improve and we have noticed that 35% of absences are due to late arrivals. School starts at 8:55am, and arriving after this time means children miss valuable learning opportunities. To help, remember that school opens at 8:40am, giving you 15 minutes to settle your child before lessons begin. Year 3 and 4 pupils can also join TT Rockstars Club from 8:30am – a great way to start the day! Please take advantage of these opportunities to ensure your child is in school on time and ready to learn. Thank you for your continued support in making every minute count!



Christmas Bauble Run

The PTFA are raising money to provide new resources & experiences for our children which the school budget does not cover.

To help raise PTFA funds so we can invest in Fun trips, Disco's, Leavers Hoodies, School entertainment and fun stuff for our kids

Then why not sponsor a Bauble.

It's just £1.00 per Bauble!

Prizes shall be awarded to:

- The Sponsor of the fastest bauble on the run.
- Runner up Bauble.
- Child selling the most baubles.



Prizes include; Festive food hamper/voucher; Festive Chocolates; £20 Cash Prize

Baubles will be released on 17/12/2025
All baubles to be purchased by 12/12/2025

Please return the sponsor form below & the sponsor money back to school office by Friday 12th December 2025 to be entered with a chance to win. If you fill your sheet and need more space, ask for an additional form from the front office. Thank you for your support!



Singing around the Christmas tree and the Bauble Run.

Hopefully you have already received your sponsor form for sponsoring a bauble for the bauble run in school, if not please contact school so we can send you another copy. The event will run after the singing around the Christmas tree event which will start at 3pm on Wednesday 17th December. PTFA will be selling refreshments, please come to reception from 14:50pm where you will be let in at the side gates.

Childcare over Christmas. Need childcare before Christmas for that last minute Christmas shopping or in the new year. Premier Education will be running a club from 08:30 – 15:30 on 22nd and 23rd December and 2nd January. To book on please use this link [Wirksworth Junior School – Premier Education](#)

Reminder E-safety – 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

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

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**

You can also find other relevant information about E-safety on this page by [clicking here.](#)

Pupil spot.

If you have anything you would like to share on Pupil spot, please let me know via Class Dojo.

Important Dates

- Friday 5th December- Festive Fun Lunch followed by watching the Snowman in Derby with a live orchestra.
- Wednesday 10th December – Christmas Dinner Day
- Wednesday 17th December at 2:50pm - Singing around the Christmas Tree in school followed by the bauble run.
- Friday 19th December at 9:30am – The whole school Christmas Service at St. Mary's church
- Friday 19th December – Last Day of Term
- Monday 5th January – First Day Back in School
- Wednesday 7th December – Year 3 trip to the Stone Centre (more details to follow)
- Tuesday 13th and Thursday 15th January Parents evening

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