Wirksworth Junior School Newsletter- November 25

Another month has flown by. We hope you have had a lovely half-term, and the monthly newsletter will remind you of what a busy month we had in October.

We are Creative.

Our harvest festival was another show stopper. Thank you to everyone who came along to support the event and for your generous donations. I hope you were impressed by the singing. The children had put a lot of hard work into learning the song words and actions, and again, a huge thank you for the donations.

We are Curious.

This month, the children have been learning about different religious buildings as part of their RE curriculum. These lessons are helping them prepare for this month's exciting visits to both a Mandir and a Mosque.

If you haven't yet informed us whether your child will be attending, or if you have any questions or concerns about the trip, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We're happy to help and want to ensure every child feels comfortable and prepared for this enriching experience.

We are Caring.

Our enthusiastic Gardening Club members have been busy transforming the school grounds in October. They rolled up their sleeves to clear up the garden beds, plant a colourful mix of spring bulbs and cheerful pansies, and even added some cauliflower to our vegetable patch. The children also learned about the importance of dead hedging to recycle tree branches to make homes for insects and small mammals. It's been a wonderful hands-on experience, and the garden is already looking brighter thanks to their hard work!

We make every moment count.

It has been a busy month for sporting events. Miss Stevens started her after-school club preparing children for cross-country running. Mrs Cooke said the children were a pleasure, showing good manners and giving it their best.

We also had some Year 5 children attending skateboarding lessons at Anthony Gell. All learned new skills, built confidence, and had a fantastic time engaging in physical activity outside the classroom.

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 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.

- November 5th **6pm General online safety update**

- 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.

Democracy – School council members straight to work Our newly elected School Council members have hit the ground running with their first initiative: a litter pick around the school grounds. During the activity, the children noticed a positive change — overall litter levels have decreased compared to previous years. However, plastic waste remains the most common type of rubbish found.

In response, the council members have expressed a strong desire to continue encouraging everyone in our school community to reduce plastic use and make more environmentally friendly choices.

They've also worked together to write an action plan for the year, focusing on sustainability, student voice, and school improvement. You can view the action plan by visiting: School Council and policies | Wirksworth Junior School

We're proud of their commitment and can't wait to see what they achieve next!

PTFA updates

The PTFA Halloween tuck shop raised an amazing £131.26 today. Our PTFA would like to thank everybody who supported this event. Their AGM was held on **Monday, 3rd November.**

We're always looking for new members to join our Parent, Teacher & Friends Association (PTFA). Whether you can spare a lot of time or just a little, your help is always appreciated! From lending a hand at events to helping with planning and organisation, there's a role for everyone.

If you're interested in getting involved, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We'd love to hear from you!

Anti-bullying week in school is coming up on 11-15th November

Monday 10th November, the children will be allowed to wear odd socks and will take part in activities to learn about online bullying and learning what seems a joke may not be a joke to the person you are teasing. The children will also get to review their policy and complete a survey to tell us how we can continue to keep them safe.

Behaviour Policy – Parent Drop-In Group & Class Dojo Rewards

Thank you to all the parents who attended our recent session to help review and update the Behaviour Policy — your feedback has been invaluable. From their input, we are updating a new reward for children

who earn the most Class Dojo points in their class each week. These children will receive a certificate and a special gift from our new “dip box” — a fun way to celebrate their positive behaviour and effort!

Also new this year is our half-termly prize for children who reach 200 Class Dojo points. For the Autumn half term, the winners enjoyed a movie afternoon with popcorn — a well-deserved treat. Looking ahead, we hope to organise some exciting reward activities outside of school time, and we’ll share more details soon.

We’ll be holding a follow-up drop-in session on ***Monday 17th November at 2:30pm,*** where we’ll go through the updated policy and offer time for questions and discussion. The revised policy is attached to the email for your reference.

Reminder to join Our TT Rockstars Club!

This is a reminder to the Year 3 and Year 4 children that they can still join our TT Rockstars Club, held every morning from 8:30 AM. This is a fantastic opportunity for children to practise their times tables in a fun and engaging way. Children who regularly attend often achieve higher scores in their Year 4 multiplication check, which gives them a strong foundation for maths throughout primary school and even into secondary education.

There’s no need to book and no requirement to attend every day — just pop in when you can!

Attendance matters

Whole school attendance for October was **95.91%**, which is just slightly below our target of **96%** — a fantastic effort overall, and a clear sign that we’re making great progress!

If you’re finding it difficult to get your child into school or arriving on time, please don’t hesitate to speak with your child’s class teacher. We’re here to support you and work together to help every child attend regularly and make the most of their learning.

Pupil spot.

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

Important Dates

- Monday 10th November – Children can wear odd socks in aid of anti-bullying week
- Wednesday 12th November – Y4/5 and Y6 Mosque visit to Open Centre
- Friday 14th November – Children in need, dress spotty for a small donation
- Monday 17th November – Y3 Mandir visit to Open Centre
- Friday 5th December – Snowman performance at Derby for whole school
- Wednesday 10th December – Christmas dinner day
- Wednesday 17th December – Singing around the Christmas Tree (more details to follow)
- Friday 19th December – 9:30am – Christmas service at St Mary’s Church
- Friday 19th December – End of term

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

Creative. Curious. Caring. We make every moment count