

Wirksworth Junior School Newsletter- October 25



The school has only been back for four weeks, yet we have been up to so many things. Here is the rundown of the exciting learning that the children have been taking part in this month so far.

We are Creative.

Year 3 has had a wonderfully musical start to the term!

The children have begun their weekly flute lessons with Mrs Kirk and have already been enjoying rhythm games — you may have heard some of these at home! This is a year-long programme, and children will soon be bringing their instruments home to practise and share their progress.

In the coming weeks, they'll also be learning to beatbox in class, and we hope they'll be able to showcase their musical talents during our Christmas service on Friday 19th December.

To continue celebrating our creativity, the whole school will be performing at the **Harvest Festival on Thursday, 23rd October at 9:30 AM at St Mary's Church**. If you would like to donate food to the local food bank, please bring your items on the day. We would be delighted to see you there and celebrate this special occasion together.

We are Curious.

While learning about the changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age in History, our Year 4 and 5 children took their learning outdoors one afternoon. They gathered natural materials and used them to create artwork inspired by Stone Age cave paintings. It was a fantastic opportunity to connect creatively with the past and bring history to life through hands-on exploration.



In addition, they along with the year 6 have also been out and about in the school grounds during forest schools, learning the importance of fire safety and how to start a fire using these rules. The year 6 have also started their first Bikeability sessions in school, and will be having more sessions before Christmas, where they will put their skills to practice on the road.

We are Caring.

During assemblies, we are focusing on our school value, respect. Focusing on what good manners mean and what people think of you when you have good manners. The children have enthusiastically taken part in the sessions, and we were pleased to see the many children volunteering to help at dinner and be our dinner hall helpers. We even had Rev Neil in to talk to the children about what mutual respect means to him.

We make every moment count.

As mentioned at the start of the newsletter, the Y3/4 have had a busy start to the term. They have been out on their adventure day at Lea Green. It was a warm, dry day, and children took part in the low rope course, driving buggies and developed their team-building skills by working together to solve problems. Mrs Sloane and Mrs Cooke were proud of the children's resilience to try out new skills and said the children were gelling really well as year groups.



Join Our TT Rockstars Club!

We're excited to invite all Year 3 and Year 4 children to our TT Rockstars Club, held every morning from

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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!

Pupil spot



It's wonderful to see that our summer term gardeners are still nurturing and caring for their plants!

Scarlet has done a fantastic job growing a sunflower that's even taller than she is — well done, Scarlet!

If you would like your child to be featured in our Pupil Spotlight, please email the school office. We love sharing what our children have been learning and doing outside of school.

Attendance update.

From August 2024 the rules for taking your child out of school without authorisation are changing. These rules are set by the Department of Education UK Government, and our school must comply with them. These include Issuing a fixed penalty notice, otherwise known as a 'fine,' Seeking an Education Supervision Order from the family court or prosecuting you. Money raised via fines is only used by the local authority to cover the costs of administering the system, and to fund attendance support. Any extra money is returned to the government. We want to work with you to improve your child's attendance, and we have a school Attendance policy which outlines this available on our website, and we welcome discussion with parents/Carers about how we can support further.

Please click the following link to read the full details Fines for parents for taking children out of school: What you need to know – The Education Hub ([blog.gov.uk](https://www.blog.gov.uk))

Congratulations.

We're delighted to share that Miss Boam is expecting a baby, due in April. We know this is a very special time for her and her family, and we wish her all the very best as she prepares for this wonderful new chapter.

We will be advertising for maternity cover in the new year and will keep everyone updated on the process.

Democracy - Encourage your child to have their say.

Thank you to all the children who applied to be part of the School Council!

We were thrilled to receive over ten applications from enthusiastic pupils eager to take on this important role.



As part of our democratic process, each class voted for their representatives, and we're excited to announce the newly elected council members. A huge well done to everyone who took part! The first School Council meeting will take place on Monday, where the children will begin discussing their ideas for improving our school.

Is my child too ill for school?

The NHS has brought out some guidance on when your child shouldn't come into school and how long they should stay off if they have a particular illness. Please follow the link to find out more.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

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Attendance matters

Attendance for the whole school in September was 96.6% which is above the school target of 96.5%. This is great and we thank you for working with us to keep attendance high in school.

We obviously do not want to be complacent; wanting to keep attendance above the acceptable level, so in school this year we are continuing to work with the child on hygiene and reducing the spread of bugs and viruses. We also are creating a program of support on dealing with worries and anxieties which can bring on symptoms of illnesses which can stop the children coming into school. One of these programs is known as the **Anxiety Gremlin** and we hope to start this in the spring term. In the autumn term, we are starting Nurture and learning about the zones of regulations; recognising our emotions and what they can do to manage these sometimes-intense feelings.

Important Dates

Wednesday 15th October – Y5 Skateboarding at AGS (see letter sent this week for further information)

Tuesday 21st October – Parent's evening (further details to follow)

Thursday 23rd October – Parent's evening (further details to follow)

Thursday 23rd October – Harvest service at St Marys' 9:30am

Thursday 23rd October – PTFA Halloween Tuck Shop

Friday 24th October – INSET Day

Wednesday 12th November – Y4/5/6 visit to the Mosque at the Open Centre

Monday 17th November – Y3 trip to the Madir at the Open Centre

Friday 5th December – Whole school trip to Derby to watch the Snowman performance

Wednesday 10th December – Christmas dinner day

Friday 19th December – Christmas Service at St Mary's

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