

Ibstone CE Primary School Newsletter

Nurture - Inspire - Grow

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Dear Families,

Happy New Year and welcome back! We hope you all had a peaceful break. We have started the term with a good dusting of snow, quite a bit of ice (thank you to those who have helped clear and grit the playground and paths) and some very excited children (and staff).

A huge congratulations to Miss Barrow who has returned to school as Mrs Hewitt, we all hope you had the most wonderful wedding day!

This week we have also welcomed back Miss Firth from maternity leave, I know she has enjoyed her first day back with Osprey Class.

Ibstone Circle

We are delighted to announce that we will be running Ibstone Circle again this year. For those of you who do not know about Ibstone Circle, it is a 5/10km run on mixed terrain, the race starts and finishes on the Common where race HQ is situated. There is also a fun colour run for children aged 4-11. We have set the date for Sunday 22nd March 2026.

In order for this event to be a huge success, as it has been historically, we need your help. If you think you would like to be part of the Ibstone Circle Committee to help organise and run this event, please email the school office to register your interest. This is a big fundraiser for our school and we would love to get it running again (excuse the pun).



Weekly Round Up

Pebbles

It was lovely welcoming the children back to Nursery after the Christmas holidays. They were very excited to tell everyone about their favourite gifts from Santa and sharing the wonderful time they have had.

This week we enjoyed playing outside in the ice and the little sprinkle of snow, building tiny snowmen and crushing the ice. In Forest School we made a fabulous Stickman using sticks and string which the children took for a tour around Forest School, climbing up trees and playing in the leaves. We also used them to tell the story of Stickman when he couldn't find his way back to the family tree.

This term our topic is Over the Rainbow, we will be learning and talking about lots of different colours. We had a discussion about the colour red with the children naming many things that are red! We had fun making splash paintings using bright colours, dipping a stick in runny paint and shaking it over the paper with some great results.

In phonics we learnt a new rhyme about Bertha the bus who was going to the zoo and what will she see as she passes through. The children then had to guess the animals in the zoo after hearing the beginning letter sound.

Our favourite story book this week was Dear Zoo which was brought to life with lots of hands-on boxes and animals.



Ladybirds

Wishing you all a very happy new year! On behalf of Miss Lever and myself we would like to thank you for your very kind gifts and vouchers. It was lovely to see all the smiles on the children as they were eager to share all their Christmas and birthday news! Ladybirds have had lots of fun exploring the ice, freezing frozen objects and working together to make a snow factory.

We start the year with our topic 'Over the Rainbow'; we listened to a colour poem spotting all the words that rhymed and added our own rhyming words. Using the poem as our starting point we then created our own line thinking about the colour red. We have taken inspiration from Jackson Pollock abstract art creating our own splatter paintings with sticks.

In maths we have looked at the number zero and what this means, ordering numbers and playing games that encourage subitising.

In phonics our new sounds are ai, ee, igh and oa with a revision of some tricky words; the, I, put, pull and full.



Woodland Class

In English, Woodland Class have been developing their character toolkit through short burst writing. This week we looked at traditional tales and looked at characters from different fairy tale stories. We then looked at good and bad characters and thought about adjectives to describe their personalities and features. We then wrote some descriptive sentences to describe either Jack or The Giant from Jack and the Beanstalk.

In mathematics, Woodland Class have been learning about shape. Year 1 have been learning how to sort 2D and 3D shapes and have also created patterns using shapes. Year 2 have been learning how to draw 2D shapes accurately and have been learning about lines of symmetry.

In science, we have started learning about animals and humans. This week we have been learning about basic needs for survival including food, water, air and shelter.

Kestrel Class

Kestrel Class have had a great start to the new term and everyone has come back with lots of energy and enthusiasm. The class are doing well at remembering to call Mrs Hewitt her new name!

In maths, we have been working on multiplication and division. Nemos have been multiplying a 2-digit number by a 1-digit number, with exchanging. Frogs have been multiplying by 10 and 100, and dividing by 100.

In English, we have introduced our new focus text, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. The class have completed their cold task and used lots of adjectives in our hook lesson. They have also begun to map the text which we will continue with next week. We have also introduced Spelling Shed into our English lessons to support the children with learning spelling patterns.

We have also been calming our minds with some guided meditation which has helped us to focus on the next lessons ahead.



Love – Courage – Respect – Community – Perseverance

'Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am'

Philippians 4:13

Osprey Class

This week in maths, Y6 have been looking at different metric and imperial units. They have been converting between units eg ml-l, g-kg etc, converting between imperial and metric units **and** they have started working on multi-step problems using multiple conversions. Y5 have finished their fractions module and worked really hard to add mixed numbers! They have moved onto their next unit on multiplication and division. This week we have started our new timetable which allows both Y5 and Y6 classes to be taught separately for mathematics 3 times per week.

In English, Osprey Class have been introduced to their new Talk for Writing text: Aladdin. Before focusing on the text, we have been looking at characterisation. We started by looking at The Genie and writing I am poems about him, using video clips as a stimulus. We then wrote the introduction to a story where the Genie's lamp was discovered and he appeared from within it; we made sure to include some great setting description. Following this they then used their ideas from the I am poems to write a descriptive paragraph about the Genie.

In Science, Osprey Class have begun their new module 'Living things and their habitats'. We have discussed the definition of a habitat and what makes it difficult for certain animals to survive in different habitats.

They have also been working hard to think of different activities for Family Time and have started planning out sessions for the rest of the half term.

Barn Owls

In maths, we have revised key methods to support our mathematical understanding. We revisited using the column method to both add and subtract three-digit numbers. We looked at counting in familiar groups to aid multiplication including 2s, 5s, 10s, 3s, 4s and 8s. We also started to look at the concept of division. We explored that you can divide by either grouping or sharing using concrete objects. We will continue this work next week with lots of practical application.

In English, we started our new unit of work on wishing tales. We started the week thinking about what we would wish for if we had three wishes. As a hook into our story, we explored many different sweet treats, exploring language we could use to describe them. Finally, we listened to and mapped our new story, a shortened version of 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. Alongside these this week, we looked at spelling patterns adding the suffixes 'ed' to a word, even when it makes the sound 't'. Well done Barns Owls, a busy and successful first week back after Christmas!

Louise Long
Headteacher

Zog & Pumpkin Awards



Headteacher Awards



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Diary Dates
New or amended dates will be shown in BOLD

Date	Occasion	Who?
January 2026		
February 2026		
2 nd	Open Classrooms – 3.30pm – 5.15pm – more information to follow	Everyone
3 rd	Parents Evening – more information to follow	Everyone
4 th	Parents Evening – more information to follow	Everyone
9 th – 15 th	Children's Mental Health Week - more information to follow	Everyone
10 th	Safer Internet Day	Everyone
12 th	End of Term – 3.15pm / 3.25pm	Everyone
13 th	INSET Day	Staff only
23 rd	Back to school	Everyone
March 2026		
6 th	World Book Day – more details to follow	Everyone
22 nd	Ibstone Circle – more information to follow	Everyone
26 th	Stations of the Cross Easter Walk	Everyone
27 th	End of Term – 1.30pm	Everyone
April 2026		
13 th	Back to school	Everyone
May 2026		
5 th – 8 th	Year 5 Adventure Week	Year 5 only
11 th – 14 th	Year 6 SATs Week	Year 6 only
22 nd	End of Term – 3.15pm	Everyone
June 2026		
1 st	INSET Day	Staff Only
2 nd	Back to school	Everyone
15 th – 19 th	Year 6 Adventure Week	Year 6 only
July 2026		
7 th	Transition Day	Everyone
9 th	KS2 Sports Morning 9am-10.30am – more information to follow	KS2 families
10 th	EYFS & KS1 Sports Morning 9am-10.30am – more information to follow	Ladybirds & Woodland Class families
4 th	Pebbles Sports Morning 11pm-12pm – more information to follow	Pebbles families
13 th	Ibfest Week – more information to follow	Everyone
17 th	Pebbles Last Day	Pebbles
20 th	Leavers' Service 9.15am, St Nicholas Church	Year 6 Families
22 nd	Garden Celebration – 12.45pm	Everyone