

# Ibstone CE Primary School Newsletter

*Nurture - Inspire - Grow*

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Issue 16 16.01.26

Dear Families,

In Worship this week we have revisited Spirituality and have been finding out about kintsugi. On Monday, after reading the Japanese story about the Emperor and his son, we learnt that kintsugi means 'golden joinery' in Japanese. We talked about how sometimes pots can crack and break, just like sometimes things can happen that can make us feel cracked or broken. It doesn't mean that we have to throw the broken pot away or give up, we can fill and mend the gaps.

Two small bowls then had a little accident in hall! The children were asked if we should just throw them away because they were broken, it was decided that we should try and fix them!

After demonstrating every value we have with a huge emphasis on perseverance (next time I will not hit them so hard with the hammer), the bowls have finally been put back together with golden glue!



In the case of the bowls, we used golden glue to repair them, they look different but they have a new beauty and can continue to be used. Christians believe whatever happens to them in life, God is with them. God can fill and mend the gaps and put people back together. Spirituality is like that golden glue. We have talked about how Ibstone has its own Ibstone glue that helps and nurtures us all, a bit like that golden glue too!

This week we have welcomed Heather Ford Lark to the Ibstone family, Heather is training to be a vicar and will be joining Rev Mark and Philip in the Benefice when she completes her training. As part of her course, Heather asked to join us for the week to develop her understanding of life in a Church of England School. We have all enjoyed getting to know Heather and look forward to seeing her when she completes her training. Good luck, we know you will be amazing!

We have also welcome Miss Thomas to the team. Miss Thomas will be working as a Teaching Assistant in Kestrel Class and occasionally across the school with a range of children.

## **Ibstone Circle**

### **Final plea for parents to join the committee to help organise this wonderful event!**

We are delighted to announce that we will 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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).



## **Family Time**

Osprey Class have planned Family Time for the whole half term. This week, their focus was Perseverance, which was very apt after my struggles fixing the bowls with golden glue! The whole school listened to the story of the wise and foolish builders. In their families they had the opportunity to build houses with good foundations that would weather a storm. The children had the opportunity to design their own home or to write little notes of encouragement that can be given to others to encourage them to persevere rather than giving up.

## **Weekly Round Up**

### **Pebbles**

In phonics this week we have played 'What's in the Box?' All the pictures in the box began with the sound 't'. The children enjoyed playing lots of games focussing on the 't' sound. They all enjoyed listening to 'The Tiger who came to Tea'. As part of our 'Over the Rainbow' topic, we painted some wonderful mondrian pictures and danced with our colourful scarves.

**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*



## Ladybirds

This week in Ladybirds we have been busy learning about instructions; how to make a clay star. We have learnt about bossy verbs and practised being bossy giving friends instructions on how to do something. We have looked at time connectives and the use of commas; we all used commas in a list of our favourite colours. We have looked at the artist Mondrian and how he used colour. We then created our own masterpieces. We are listening to the story of Noah's Ark and finding out about the meaning of the rainbow in the story. In maths the focus has been on 1 more and 1 less and exploring number bonds to 5 through lots of practical activities.

In phonics our new sounds are oo as in zoom, oo as in book, ar and or. Our new tricky words are was, you and they.



## Woodland Class

In English, Woodland Class have been learning their new Talk 4 Writing text 'The Magic Porridge Pot'. We started the week by reading the story and discussing what we liked or disliked about it. We also had lots of fun making porridge and tried different toppings including plain, milk, honey and raisins.

In mathematics, Year 1 have started learning about place value to 20. This week they have been counting forwards and backwards to 20 and have been building teen numbers using dienes. Year 2 have continued learning about shapes. This week they have used their knowledge of symmetry to complete shapes and have counted the faces, vertices and edges of 3D shapes.

In geography, we have been learning about the four countries within the UK. This week we used iPads to research information about England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.



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### Kestrel Class

In mathematics, we have continued working on multiplication and division. Nemos have been dividing 2-digit numbers by a 1-digit number, using flexible partitioning and remainders. Frogs have been multiplying 3-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers and dividing 2-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers.

In English, we have been learning our focus text, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. We have finished mapping our text and have done some short burst writing to work on character description. In our grammar lessons we have started working on prefixes and suffixes.

In Geography, we started learning about volcanoes and how they are formed. We linked our learning to our Science topic about rocks and learnt about the different layers of the Earth. The class also created some lovely volcano paintings for our topic display board.



### Osprey Class

This week in mathematics, Y6 have been learning about ratios and how to express them using the colon symbol. Y5 have been working on multiplying 2-digit numbers by 2-digit numbers using both the area model and the column method.

In English, Osprey Class have been learning how to identify and group antonyms and synonyms. They have also been looking at words with the suffix -able and looking at their etymology and completing different spelling activities for these words. As part of the Talk 4 Writing unit, we began looking at how dialogue can be used to describe characters and also advance the action. We recapped the punctuation rules for dialogue and then the children used speech to write a conversation between two characters from Aladdin, making sure how the characters spoke and how what they said gave clues about their personality. The next day they then used dialogue to describe an action scene from Aladdin.

In Science this week we have started looking at the lifecycle of plants and how they can reproduce sexually and asexually. In Computing we have had some brilliant discussions around AI; how it can be used in our everyday lives, as well as some of the benefits and limitations to its use.

In geography this week, we started our unit of work on rivers. We started by recapping the water cycle and thinking about how water droplets are moved around this cycle. We then learnt about some of the main rivers in the UK. We tracked the River Thames all the way from its source to its mouth, looking at what key places it passes through. We then used atlases to find other rivers and identify their source and mouth.

### Barn Owls

In maths this week, the children have worked on their skills of division. They have used their step counting to help divide numbers by 2, 3, 5, 8 and 10 and have really impressed Mrs Burkitt with their growing confidence.

For English, the children continued our work on Charlie and the Chocolate factory. They have focused on descriptions of both things inside the factory and the characters themselves. They have looked at different homophones and been surprised at how many different homophones there are!

### In other news

#### National Handwriting Day

This year we will be celebrating National Handwriting Day by launching our new handwriting scheme! Since the publication of the DfE's Writing Framework we have been researching and exploring a range of handwriting schemes. We have chosen Kinetic Letters and the staff have been undertaking the training over the past two weeks. The PTA have very generously paid for our chosen scheme and have resourced it across the school. Thank you! We look forward to sharing more handwriting news with you this half term.

#### Curriculum Letters

Your child should have brought home the Spring Curriculum Letter today, if a copy has not made its way home, please let us know. They have been uploaded to Google Classroom for Woodland, Kestrel & Osprey Classes.

Louise Long  
Headteacher



# Zog & Pumpkin Awards



# Headteacher Awards



Love – Courage – Respect – Community – Perseverance  
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# Lunchtime Awards



# Family Time Awards



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# Runner of the Week



## Diary Dates

New or amended dates will be shown in **BOLD**

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

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