

Ibstone CE Primary School Newsletter

Nurture - Inspire - Grow

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Dear Families,

Today is National Handwriting Day and in order to celebrate, we launched our new handwriting scheme – Kinetic Letters. We joined together this morning to talk about Kinetic Letters and we all had a chance to build strength by learning how to be meerkats, bears, lizards, penguins and stone lions.



These positions will be used at school and it would be great if you could use them at home too! They are really important for all children as they build strength and stability.

During our training Ben, our Chair of Governors, popped in and joined us as we were learning how to be a strong lizard.

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



Weekly Round Up

Pebbles

This week Pebbles have enjoyed listening to the story “How To Catch A Rainbow” by Naomi Jones. In the book Freya wants a rainbow of her own and goes on an adventure to find all the colours she needs. We packed a backpack with everything we needed to catch some colours, including binoculars, tweezers, a butterfly net and a notebook and then set off around the class room in search of colours. We all had lots of fun using our imagination and creativity. We also helped to paint a huge rainbow and all the items in our backpack to go on the display.

We have been playing number games this week. Counting ladybird spots and matching the correct pattern on the big ladybird shape. In Forest School we got very muddy and enjoyed flying on our magic carpet to far off lands where we found many treasures. Our favourite song has been the Hokey Cokey!

Ladybirds

This week in Ladybirds we have also enjoyed listening to the story “How To Catch A Rainbow”. We set off on a colour search to look for all the colours of the rainbow around the school. We have had fun becoming rainbow hunters with our own bag of props. Everyone has wowed me with how they used their phonic knowledge to write and draw all the equipment needed to become a rainbow hunter.

In maths the focus has been on weight and capacity; we have estimated how many bricks was the mass of various small objects and then checked. We have looked at different containers and used various objects to explore the capacity and realising that pine cones and sticks will give us very different numbers. We have explored different sized spoons in the sand filling containers.

In phonics our sounds of the week are or, ur, ow, and ear. Our new tricky words are my, by and all with a recap on was, you, they, into.



Woodland Class

In English, Woodland Class have continued familiarising themselves with our Talk 4 Writing text ‘The Magic Porridge Pot’. This week we have been learning to retell the story using actions. We have also been developing our characterisation toolkit, learning how to use interesting verbs and adverbs.

In mathematics, Year 1 have continued learning about place value to 20. This week they have been building numbers to 20 using a range of equipment and have been identifying one more and one less then a given number. Year 2 have completed their learning on shapes and have now moved onto money. This week they have been learning to count money using pence and pounds.

In geography, we have been learning about balanced diets. We discussed the 5 main food groups, including carbohydrates, protein, dairy, fruit and vegetables and fats and oils. We then completed food pyramids to show where different foods belong.

In computing, we have been learning about instructions. We learnt that instructions were made up of lots of commands that were in a particular order. To explore this, we played a game to draw a beetle. Each number on the dice represented a different feature that we had to draw, except we could only draw it in the order that was shown on the board.

Kestrel Class

In maths, Nemos have started working on length and perimeter. They have been measuring in millimetres, centimetres and metres and understanding how to compare the lengths. Frogs have continued working on multiplication and division. They have been dividing 2-digit and 3-digit numbers by a 1-digit number. We have learnt several different methods to help us learn how to do this.

In English, we have started innovating our focus text. We have changed the chocolate factory to a sweet factory and thought of exciting adjectives for what the character would find inside the sweet factory. We have worked on the first two paragraphs and practised retelling the text. Next week we will finish writing our first innovation.

We have had an exciting afternoon finding out more about our new handwriting scheme, and learning the different animal poses that help us to have the correct posture. Kestrels have really enjoyed singing the song to learn how to hold a pencil correctly and understanding how important a strong core is for good handwriting.



Osprey Class

In English, we have been learning how to identify the active and passive voice in text. In our Talk 4 Writing lessons, we have created our text map for our focus text and have started learning the text. We have also been looking at some of the more challenging vocabulary and discussing their meanings and possible synonyms. The children also took a small section of the first paragraph to beginning innovating.

In maths, Year 5 have continued with multiplying and having been multiplying 4 digit numbers by 2 digit numbers. They have then started to look at using the short division written method to divide 4 digit numbers by 1 digit numbers. Year 6 have finished their ratio unit by scaling up and down recipe ingredients. They have then begun their next unit of work, Algebra and have been focusing on 1 and 2 step function machines.

In our 'Explore' lesson, we have been looking at rivers around the world. The children selected one of the major rivers and began researching and gathering information, in order to produce an information text next week.

This week in Science, we have been discussing the lifecycle of mammals. We have discussed the 3 different types of mammals: placental, marsupials and monotremes.

In Computing, we have been discussing the importance of prompt specificity when using AI.

Barn Owls

In maths this week, the children have been exploring measuring length. They have learned about mm, cm and m as units of measurement. By looking closely at rulers, they have seen that 1 mm is smaller than 1 cm and that millimetres can be used to measure lengths that are not an exact number of centimetres. We have talked about how important it is in real life to understand different measurements, especially when ordering furniture to fit in your house!

In English, the children have innovated Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Each story features Rose Bland and Grandma Pam visiting Mr. Fizzlepop's sweet factory, but the children have used unique descriptions and word choices to make the stories their own.

In other news

Parents Evening Appointments

Emails have been sent out this afternoon regarding booking appointments, please complete the form as soon as possible, appointment times will be sent out by the end of next week.

Louise Long
Headteacher

Headteacher Awards



Diary Dates

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

Date	Occasion	Who?
January 2026		
23rd	National Handwriting Day	Everyone
February 2026		
2 nd	Open Classrooms – 3.30pm – 5.15pm – more information to follow	Everyone
3 rd	Parents Evening – emails sent 23/1	Everyone
4 th	Parents Evening – emails sent 23/1	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	Ibifest 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

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