

Ibstone CE Primary School Newsletter

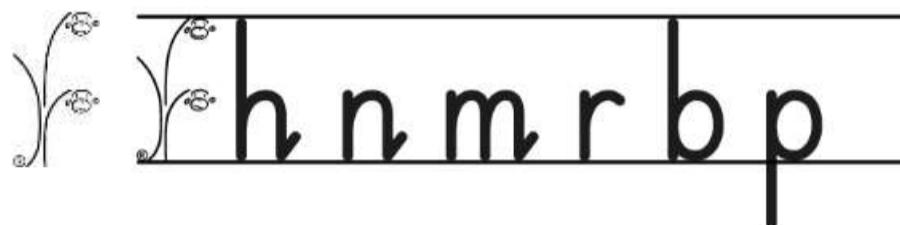
Nurture - Inspire - Grow

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Dear Families,

The whole school have embraced our new handwriting scheme this week, I think it is fair to say that they all know the pencil hold song really well! It has been great to see a number of children adding the tree to the beginning of their line to help them with their letter sizing.



Some of the classes have been listening to the Letter Family Stories and have found out about the Jumper Family.

Family Time

During Family Time this afternoon the whole school found out about Candlemas (which is 2nd February) and why this is an important date in the Christian calendar. We found out that Candlemas marks the end of the Christmas – Epiphany season and is 40 days after Christmas. It commemorates the presentation of Jesus at the Temple. As part of our learning we looked at Christingles and found out what each part of a Christingle symbolised, we enjoyed making our own Christingles. During Worship, we carefully lit over 90 candles in our biggest Christingle service ever. The children were amazing and so sensible with their Christingles. Philip led us in song and taught us a special Christingle song he had written today! We had some time of reflection as we lit the Christingles and thought about our week, the impact of our actions on others and how we were wonderfully unique and special.



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

Pebbles have enjoyed their dance and movement session this week. They had to move in a variety of ways to different sounds for example, marching to the drum beat, spinning to the bells and star jumping when they heard the cymbol.

We have also been working on our fine motor skills, rolling playough into sauasges and then cutting them up using knives and scissors. We made playdough currant buns and used them to sing our '5 currant buns' song, counting backwards from 5.

In phonics this week our sound was 'i', we named lots of objects beginning with 'i'. We practised recognising our names and reciting funny sentences.

We had great fun in Forest School this week getting very muddy and rolling down the hill.



Ladybirds

This week in Ladybirds we have been busy writing instructions on how to catch a rainbow. We have had some wonderful ideas, including first get a net and then climb a tree, ride a unicorn, go on an aeroplane, next reach up high and finally catch a rainbow. We have practised using time connectives and bossy verbs.

We started our new handwriting scheme and worked on the 6 moves for writing, exercising our fingers and strong writing positions.

In maths we have looked at the numbers 6,7,8 and the different ways these can be represented. We explored the numicon and making these numbers in lots of different ways and finding 1 more and 1 less.

In phonics our sounds of the week are air, and er and double letters bb, dd, mm, tt, rr, gg, pp, ff. Our new tricky words are; are sure and pure.



Woodland Class

In English, Woodland Class have been planning their innovated versions of 'The Magic Porridge Pot'. We started the week by identifying verbs, adverbs and adjectives in a range of fairytale stories to help us with our own writing. We then planned our stories by changing the characters and the magic item.

In mathematics, Year 1 have completed their unit on place value. This week we looked at estimating numbers on a number line and comparing numbers using more than, less than and equal to. Year 2 have continued their work on money. This week they have been using plastic coins to make an amount. They have also been learning to make an amount in different ways using notes and coins.

In computing, we have continued learning about instructions. This week, we worked in pairs to give precise instructions to describe cartoon monsters. Our partners then had to follow the instructions to see if they could draw the monster correctly.

In geography, we have been learning about human and physical features. This week, we looked at an aerial map of Ibstone and identified human and physical features that we could see such as houses, fields, woods and our school.



Kestrel Class

In maths this week, both groups have been working on length and perimeter. Nemos have been comparing, adding and subtracting lengths. They have had to convert the questions into the same unit of measurement to be able to make comparisons, which has proved rather tricky. Frogs have been learning about equivalent lengths in kilometres and metres. They have also been calculating the perimeter of a rectangle on a grid.

In English, we have finished writing our first innovation of the focus text and described our new characters in a sweet factory. Today we drew lots of pictures, as part of our plan for next week when we innovate the text more independently to a Toy Universe.

Linking our English and science we did an investigation using six different chocolate bars comparing them to rocks! It was a lot of fun and we enjoyed looking at the features of the chocolate bars before deciding which rock families they belonged to. We also enjoyed sampling the chocolate at the end of the lesson!

We have been looking at different prefixes and how they change the meaning of the root word. We enjoyed finding words with the prefix super, anti, auto and sub.

We have been developing our daily handwriting routine and are now adept at using the different positions, including the bear and strong lizard.



Osprey Class

This week the Osprey Class have been practising their new handwriting – we have covered all of the lower case families and have started looking at how to properly form capital letters.

In English, the children have been looking at different toolkit techniques that have been used in our focus text and then have had a go at innovating parts of the focus text using these techniques. Some of the techniques included using colons and semi colons, so we learnt how these can be used to correctly punctuate sentences. To finish the week we identified the structure of a wishing story and used this to then plan our own wishing story.

In maths, Year 6 have continued their work on algebra and have been writing and solving equations. Year 5 have finished their work on multiplication and division by solving a range of 1 and 2 step problems. They have then moved onto fractions and have been subtracting fractions that have required them to find a common denominator.

In Science, we have discussed the differences between an insect's and amphibian's lifecycle. We have used terms such as chrysalis, metamorphosis, pupa and lava to help distinguish the distinct stages.

In Computing, Osprey Class have taken on the role of AI software. Students chose 3 prompt words and then had to draw the image that they believed would be generated by AI using these 3 prompts.

In Geography the children used their research from last week about a river around the world to write an information text about their chosen river.

Barn Owls

This week in maths, the Barn Owls have been furthering their understanding of length. The children applied this knowledge to master calculating the perimeters of various shapes.

In English, the children have finished their wonderful stories of Rose and Grandma Pam at the sweet factory. They have created typed booklets in Word, which they have then illustrated. They all created a book to feel proud of. Well done Barn Owls!

In other news

Forest School – Osprey Class

Year 5 and Year 6 will be swapping Forest School sessions next week. Year 5 will be out at Forest School on Monday, Year 6 will go out on Tuesday. This is only a swap for next week.

Open Classes

We are delighted to invite you into school again to see your child's classroom. The classrooms will be open from the end of the school day (3.15pm for Ladybirds and Woodland Class/ 3.25pm for Kestrel and Osprey Class) until 5.30pm on Monday 2nd February. It is an opportunity for your child to show you their classroom and their books will be available for you to look at. We hope you will be able to join us. The teachers will be in the classrooms to welcome you but please be aware, this is not parents' evening.

Parents Evening Appointments

You should have received your appointment email, please get in touch if you have not received your appointment time.

Kites Bookings

You are now able to book Kites sessions for after half term. Table Tennis will continue up until Easter as the children are really enjoying these sessions.

Swimming

An email has been sent out to the remaining KS2 children about swimming sessions after half term. We are hoping to offer swimming to Year 2 children after Easter.

National Story Telling Week

Next week is National Story Telling Week, we will be taking some time each day to have extended story time and on Thursday afternoon some children will be joining me to head up to the care home to read to some of the residents. If you would like some ideas, please take a look here:

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/resources/national-storytelling-week/>

Children's Mental Health Week

The theme for this year's Children's Mental Health Week is 'This is My Place'. During the week we will be talking about what it means to belong, how we can support our own sense of belonging and how we can help others. On Thursday 12th February we would like to invite all the children to 'Come as Yourself'. Everyone is welcome to wear an outfit which makes them feel most comfortable and confident— whether that's cosy clothes, cultural dress, favourite colours, or something totally unique. We want to celebrate what makes you, you!

Louise Long
Headteacher

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Diary Dates
New or amended dates will be shown in BOLD

Date	Occasion	Who?
February 2026		
2 nd	Open Classrooms – 3.30pm – 5.15pm	Everyone
3 rd	Parents Evening – emails sent 23/1 appointments sent 29/1	Everyone
4 th	Parents Evening – emails sent 23/1 appointments sent 29/1	Everyone
9 th – 15 th	Children's Mental Health Week - please see the main body of the newsletter	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
20 th	Red Nose 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