

Ibstone CE Primary School Newsletter

Nurture - Inspire - Grow

Ibstone, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP14 3XZ
Telephone: 01491 638281
Email: office@ibstone.bucks.sch.uk
www.ibstoneschool.org.uk
Headteacher: Mrs Louise Long

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Dear Families,

As it is Children's Mental Health Week, we have been thinking about Belonging. We talked about how we all belong to a family, a school community and for lots of children, other groups outside of school. We thought about how we were all different and beautifully unique, we took the time to think about what we loved about ourselves.

In Worship this morning Philip talked about perseverance and never giving up, this linked in well with thinking about ourselves and how we approach our play and learning. We also sang my personal favourite, You are a Star! Just to remind everyone that they are loved and special, just the way they are.

Thank you all for your patience with me this week, it has been busy but I am still standing! I've hopefully kept on top of the emails and calls, we have a newsletter and I have enjoyed covering lunch play (FAB) and I've even had an unexpected opportunity to join Ladybirds for Forest School this morning! Zog & Pumpkin enjoyed learning how to jump into the quicksand (although I am not sure Pumpkin was so keen)!



Ibstone Circle

We are delighted to share Registration is now OPEN! Thank you to the committee for getting this back up and running!

Your child should have a poster for the Ibstone Circle and Run in Colour in their bags today, please share it far and wide. This is a super fundraiser for us. I have also attached the posters to the newsletter and will upload them to the website.

You can register for the events and find out more here:

<https://www.ibstonecircle.co.uk/>



Weekly Round Up

Pebbles

This week Pebbles have enjoyed learning about Chinese New Year. We made some lovely Chinese dragons and colourful lanterns. Our Chinese restaurant was very popular with the children taking turns to be the chef, serving noodles and special fried rice to hungry customers. We had lots of fun dancing to Chinese music and pretending to be celebration fireworks flashing and sparkling around the hall. We finished our dance session with a Chinese dragon dance. Some children played the drums whilst the others were draped in bright colours. They wore a dragon headdress and danced weaving in and out of each other.

In Forest School this week we were very excited to be joined by Zog and Pumpkin. We showed them how we climb, slide and jump in sinking sand!!



Ladybirds

This week in Ladybirds we have been finding out about Chinese New Year. This year is the Year of the Horse. We have enjoyed finding out how each of the 12 years in the Chinese calendar are named after animals, we all felt a bit sorry for the cat who got pushed off the back of the ox by the rat and didn't quite finish the race in time. We have listened to stories that have explained different Chinese traditions; we all chose one to write and draw about. We have tried copying Chinese writing and numbers, zero was particularly tricky! We had fun turning our home corner into a Chinese restaurant taking turns to be the chef. We have made Chinese lanterns and dragons. We had lots of fun making up our own dragon dance whilst taking turns to bang the drums!

In maths we have looked at combining two groups and finding the total. We have looked at different picture representations of part whole models and lots of subitising finding two groups and the total.



Woodland Class

In English, Woodland Class have been writing their own stories based on fairy-tale characters. The children have enjoyed creating interesting characters and magical items for their stories and have been focusing on using interesting adjectives and verbs to describe their characters.

In mathematics, Year 1 have continued learning about adding and subtracting. This week they have been learning about doubles. Year 2 have completed their unit on money. This week they have been learning to solve two-step problems based on money.

In science, we have been learning about hygiene. We took part in an experiment using water, pepper and soap to see how effective soap is at cleaning away germs.



Kestrel Class

In English, we finished writing our final innovation of the wishing tale with the main character going to a toy universe. The children also created a comic strip book to accompany their writing. They have all worked very hard on their character description.

In maths, both Nemos and Frogs have started our new topic which is fractions. We used fraction cards showing pictorial and numerical fractions which we ordered and sorted according to different criteria.

In French we used our number skills to play a French playground game called 'La Marelle'. We drew grids on the playground using chalk and played in pairs.

In Science we reviewed our chemical weathering experiment from last week to see what difference the week had made. It was quite astonishing! We also carried out an activity with sugar cubes to understand physical weathering and how rocks become smooth pebbles.

To round off Children's Mental Health Week, we had a yoga and meditation session with Mrs Hewitt. We did lots of partner poses to ensure we were working as a team, so are all coming home very zen for the half term!



Osprey Class

In maths, Y6 have been rounding, adding and subtracting decimals to tenths, hundredths and thousandths. They have then been multiplying and dividing decimals, up to 3 decimal places, by 10, 100 and 1000. Year 5 have been multiplying fractions and have begun to find fractions of amounts.

This week in English, Osprey Class have been identifying conjunctions, determiners and prepositions in their SPaG sessions. They have also finished writing their wishing stories.

In science, they have been researching David Attenborough and Jane Goodall; they have focused on the impact both of them have had and their most profound pieces of work.

In computing, students have been learning about HTML coding and have had a go at editing HTML using the software 'Trinket'.

As part of Children's Mental Health Week each child decorated a small square of paper to show something about themselves, this included hobbies, pets and favourite foods. We then placed all these tiles together to create a class mosaic.



Barn Owls

This week in maths, the Barn Owls have been furthering their understanding of fractions. They have used bar models to compare fractions. They have explored that if the denominator is the same, then the greater the numerator, the greater the fraction or the smaller the numerator, the smaller the fraction. The children have also looked at how to represent fractions on a number line.

In English, the children have finished their wonderful wishing tales set around Toy Universe. Whilst hugging our original text of Charlie and Chocolate Factory, the children have incorporated their own imaginative ideas to create their own unique tales. What a super conclusion to this half term!

In other news

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.

Cross Country

If your child would like to take part please book next term on IPAL.

Bikeability

Year 4 have their Bikeability session on Monday 23rd February. Please make sure that bikes and helmets are in school first thing as the session starts at 9am. It would be best for them to wear their PE kit and trainers.

World Book Day – Friday 6th March

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Friday 6th March. The staff have decided that dressing up as a word was great fun so we will be inviting all children, parents and staff to dress up as a word. We will be holding a Vocabulary Parade during the school day and will be inviting parents to join our parade at 3pm on the school playground. This was Zog dressed as the word dapper! The choices are endless, we look forward to seeing your creativity.



We hope you all have a great half term!

See you on Monday 23rd February!

Louise Long
Headteacher

Diary Dates
New or amended dates will be shown in BOLD

Date	Occasion	Who?
February 2026		
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 – PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE – now 19th April	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
19th	Ibstone Circle	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