

Ibstone CE Primary School Newsletter

Nurture - Inspire - Grow

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Dear Families,

What a busy week it has been! On Monday I had the privilege of spending the morning with Osprey Class. We had been invited to help the Chiltern Rangers with a special project at Cholsey Farm. Our challenge was to use a range of tools and equipment to help remove the scrubby trees in the Chalk Bank Field. This field is a vital habitat for the Chilterns' Chalk Blue Butterflies and the children's efforts will help keep it from scrubbing over with hawthorn trees. Ted and Jackie from Cholsey Farm and Steph from the Chiltern Rangers were so impressed with the team work, co-operation, attitudes and work ethic of the whole class! Well done Osprey Class!



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

On Thursday afternoon the football team headed out to play our 4th league match, this time against Bledlow Ridge. It was a hard game, however, at the full time whistle we were victorious! Two super goals! Well done team! A 2 nil win to add to the table.



Next Thursday we will be playing in the quarter finals of the U11 Knock Out Cup! Good luck to the whole team!
I hope you all enjoyed the Vocabulary Parade this afternoon, thank you for all your creativity, there were some AMAZING costumes!



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Weekly Round Up

Pebbles

Pebbles have had a busy week doing many different activities and learning lots of new information. We enjoyed helping to make salt dough dinosaur fossils, which were baked to make them hard. The next day they were buried under the soil and, using a paintbrush, we had to brush away the soil to find the fossils.

We managed to do a 100 piece jigsaw puzzle, with a little help, and were very clever at looking for colours and shapes to fit into the picture.

Pebbles have been practising putting numbers 1-5 in order and playing different games involving numbers. In Forest School, Stickman joined us for some fun and games!

We've had lots of wonderful stories this week and enjoyed joining in with the repeated refrains from the books. Pebbles' children love storytime, it's their favourite part of the morning!



Ladybirds

This week in Ladybirds the children were given a frozen dinosaur. They had to work with their friends to discover the best way to melt the ice; some chose windowsills, others found a place in the sun and even on top of a radiator, it took longer than they thought!

We found out all about fossils this week and learnt about Mary Anning. Some of the children loved sharing their knowledge and books with the rest of the class. We had some super drawings of Mary Anning and this inspired the children to make fossils and become fossil hunters. We also had fun making our own dinosaur pool!

In maths the focus has been on time; we have explored what we can do in set amounts of time using different time sand timers. We are learning the order of the days of the week and what happens on different days.

In phonics we have recapped phase 3 sounds and looked at double letters we are working on reading and writing sentences.



Woodland Class

In English, Woodland Class have enjoyed publishing their poems by turning them into a book. The children have worked hard to edit and improve their poems before writing them up neatly. We also enjoyed reading them to each other as part of World Book Day.

In mathematics, Year 1 have completed their work on addition and subtraction and have started their unit on place value within 50. This week the children have been solving missing number problems and have been counting from 20 to 50. Year 2 have continued learning about multiplication. This week they have been learning how to build arrays and use them to solve multiplication problems.

In geography, we have been learning about compass points. We practised turning in different directions to face north, south, east and west before using compass directions to describe where buildings were in relation to others on our school site. As a challenge we created mnemonics to help us remember the points of a compass e.g. Never Eat Slimy Worms.

In computing, we have been learning how to program digital Bee-bots. This week we worked in pairs to program a set of instructions for our digital Bee-bots to follow to get to different locations on a map. Some of the locations were more challenging than others so we sometimes had to correct errors in our instructions.

Kestrel Class

In English, we have been doing short burst writing this week and thinking of different potions that we can write about in our innovations. The class have started to plan using pictures and phrases, ensuring they included some subordinate conjunctions. I am excited to hear more next week about teachers turning into parrots and doctors turning into rats!

In maths, the Nemos have started working on mass and capacity. They have been using scales and number lines to calculate the mass of objects in grams and kilograms. Frogs have continued with fractions and have worked lots with equivalent fractions. It has been a challenge converting improper fractions to mixed fractions but everyone is persevering.

In geography, we have been looking more into volcanoes and discussing the positives and negatives of living close to a volcano.

In French we looked at leaflets and brochures from France and used our knowledge to understand some of the content.



Osprey Class

On Monday, Osprey Class went on a trip to the local farm with the Chiltern Rangers to help remove shrubs and trees from one of their fields. We discussed the importance of maintaining grassland to avoid succession of trees over the years, how it protects certain species and provides versatility for farmers. Osprey class exemplified our Ibstone School values and I was very proud of how polite, collaborative and hardworking they were throughout the day.

In maths, Y6 have begun learning how to calculate percentages. They have then been finding equivalent fractions, decimals and percentages. Y5 have been finding equivalent fractions and decimals and also writing thousandths as fractions.

In science, we have introduced the key terms: classification and taxonomy. The students learnt about the importance of classification of living organisms and some of the challenges scientists face when classifying species.

In geography, we have discussed the different ways in which rivers can be used. We explored the advantages, disadvantages and long-term impact of these different uses. We then looked at dams and discussed their uses, including hydroelectric power. The children then read case studies about The Aswan Dam, The Hoover Dam and The Three Gorges Dam and decided if they agreed that the dam should have been built considering all the benefits and disadvantages.

Barn Owls

This week in maths, the Barn Owls have continued their work on multiplication. They have looked at how to fill in a multiplication square and how to work out tables that they have not yet learned. They have practised the tricky skill of multiplying larger numbers by a single digit numbers and impressed Mrs Burkitt with their resilience.

In English, Barn Owls have explored different spelling patterns with 'l' at the end of a word such as **apple**, **tunnel**, **pencil** and **capital**. In talk for writing, they have worked on 'How the Prince to Frog potion works'. They have started to think about new potions to transform different people with a whole class example of a potion turning a teacher into a parrot. Next week the children will start innovating the text using their own ideas.

Family Time

In Family Time this week there were lots of stories being shared! We are so lucky to have such a wealth of books in our school library and it was so wonderful to see our older children sharing their love of books with the younger children.



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In other news

Whole School Trip

Your child should have brought home a letter today regarding the whole school trip to The Story Museum on Wednesday 8th July. Please get in touch if this hasn't made it home!

Red Nose Day – Friday 20th March

We are inviting the children, staff and parents (if you want to join in) to dress up to 'Take Yourself Funny for Money', this could be crazy hair, odd socks, clashing clothes, a red nose etc in exchange for a donation to Comic Relief. Let the crazy commence! To donate to this worthy cause, please click [here](#) or through the email link that has been sent out.

Year 5 Adventure Week Parent Meeting – Monday 23rd March

There is a meeting at 7pm in the school hall to discuss the finer details of Adventure Week and provide an opportunity for parents to ask questions. Please contact the office if you are unable to attend.

Louise Long
Headteacher

Headteacher Awards



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Zog the Dog & Pumpkin Praise Awards



Runners of the Week



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Diary Dates
New or amended dates will be shown in BOLD

Date	Occasion	Who?
March 2026		
20 th	Red Nose Day – see main newsletter	Everyone
23 rd	Year 5 Adventure Week Meeting – 7pm in the hall – Parents only	Y5 Parents only
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
19 th	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
18 th	Year 6 Adventure Week Meeting – 7pm in the hall – Parents only	Y6 Parents only
19 th	Garsington Workshop from 1pm – Osprey Class only	Osprey Class
22 nd	End of Term – 3.15pm	Everyone
June 2026		
1 st	INSET Day	Staff Only
2 nd	Back to school	Everyone
9 th	Opera First Auditions – Y4,5 & 6 only	Y4,5 & 6 only
15 th – 19 th	Year 6 Adventure Week	Year 6 only
23 rd	Garsington Opera Performance – pm – Osprey Class	Osprey Class only
July 2026		
7 th	Transition Day	Everyone
8th	Whole School Trip – letters sent 6/3/26	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