

Ibstone CE Primary School Newsletter

Nurture - Inspire - Grow

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Issue 32 05.06.26

Dear Families,

Welcome back to the final half term of the academic year! The staff spent the INSET day developing the mathematics scheme and accessing training from the SEN Team about Exploring Scaffolding to Promote Independence, it was reassuring to hear and see that as a school we are already using lots of the techniques and resources shared to help all of our children become independent learners. In our discussions during and after the training we have decided to relaunch Three Before Me. This strategy has worked incredibly well in the past to help all children develop their independence and resilience during lessons and in life.

This week we have been thinking about Perseverance, Philip led a super Worship on perseverance on Thursday for our EYFS and KS1 children. Next week we will be sharing **Three Before Me** with the children. We will all be encouraging them to use this strategy when facing a challenge moving forward.

1. **Brain** – take time to focus, dig deep into your brain forest to retrieve prior learning
2. **Browse** - look around the question you are trying to answer, what are the clues/ key information you can pick out? Look around the classroom, is there any information that can help you displayed on the working wall or on display in the classroom?
3. **Resources** – what resources can you use to help? Go and get them to help you!

If you are still stuck then the staff will of course support and help you!

I wonder if three before me might be a good strategy to use at home ... I think I am going to try it out!

Friendships

This week we have been thinking about friendships, what makes a good friend and how we can be a friend to others and how to resolve conflict in friendships. Woodland Class have made whole class poster combining all the attributes they think make a good friend. Well done Woodland Class!

Bikeability

Well done to our Y6 children who have successfully completed Level 2 of Bikeability, they have demonstrated that they can safely ride on a main road and know how to check their bikes using A,B,C,D,D,D before they set off. They are also able to share their road safety knowledge. Well done all of you! A huge thank you to Ian and Robin from BeSpoke for their super training!



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 learning all about bees. We had a wonderful visit from a bee keeper who told us a story about the life of Betty Bee. The children had a fantastic opportunity to see some busy bees in their hive. They learnt lots of interesting facts as well as dressing as a bee keeper with protective clothing and a visor. The children were very lucky to try some delicious honey!

We painted some lovely flowers and bees for our classroom display which looks beautifully colourful. We also had fun making flowers out of playdough which we squeezed, rolled and manipulated to make different shapes. Even though this is a fun activity it's also a fantastic exercise to improve our hand strength, leading to improved pencil control and future writing skills.



Ladybirds

This week in Ladybirds we have started our Talk4Writing topic all about bees. We would like to say a big thank you to Kris for coming in and sharing all his knowledge and filling us with lots of new facts. The children loved spotting the Queen Bee amongst the many thousands of bees, tasting the honey and dressing up as a bee keeper. We have looked at a picture of a bee and used this as an inspiration for a class poem about a bee.

In maths we are working on quick recall of number bonds to 5 and 10; the focus has been on sharing and grouping, we have practically explored sharing different numbers of objects between 2, 3 and 4 and thought about whether all numbers can be shared equally.

In phonics this week the focus has been on reading longer words with long vowel sounds and we are recapping tricky words.



Woodland Class

In English, Woodland class have enjoyed finding out about toys in the past. This term we are learning to write fact files and have been exploring a range of Victorian Toys to write about. On Wednesday, the children had lots of fun playing Victorian games, such as pick up sticks, jacks, dominoes and hopscotch. They also enjoyed playing with Victorian toys, such as wooden trains and a cup and ball. This week we have also sorted pictures of toys into old and new and have written some fact files about our favourite toys from home.

In mathematics, Year 1 have been learning about money. This week they have been identifying different coins and notes and have been learning to count coins to find a total. Year 2 have completed their unit of fractions. This week they have been learning to find $\frac{3}{4}$ of a shape or quantity and have been learning to count in fractions.

In art, we have been exploring the element of colour. This week, we have been learning about hues and have been mixing primary colours to make to different shades of green. To make our shades lighter we added more yellow and to make our shades darker we added more blue.

In phonics, Badgers group have been practising common exception words and have been practising spotting mistakes and correcting them. Foxes group have continued to revise all of the phase 5 phonics sounds and have enjoyed playing a range of games to practise reading real words and alien words.



Kestrel Class

In English, we have introduced our new focus text, The Big, Bad Wolf. This is a biography text and the class have written their cold task about themselves in the third person. There was a lot of discussion and examples of what a biography is. Finally they have mapped the text, ready to learn the actions next week.

In mathematics, both groups have been learning about shape this week. Nemos have been drawing parallel and perpendicular lines, recognising and describing 2D shapes and drawing polygons. Frogs have been learning about triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons and lines of symmetry.

In DT, the class have continued learning about seasonal food and looked at the food rainbow; learning which colours help different parts of the body. They have designed and created a seasonal tart painting and collage. First they had to draw and paint their tart base and then they had to draw and cut different coloured paper and card to represent the fruit and vegetables.

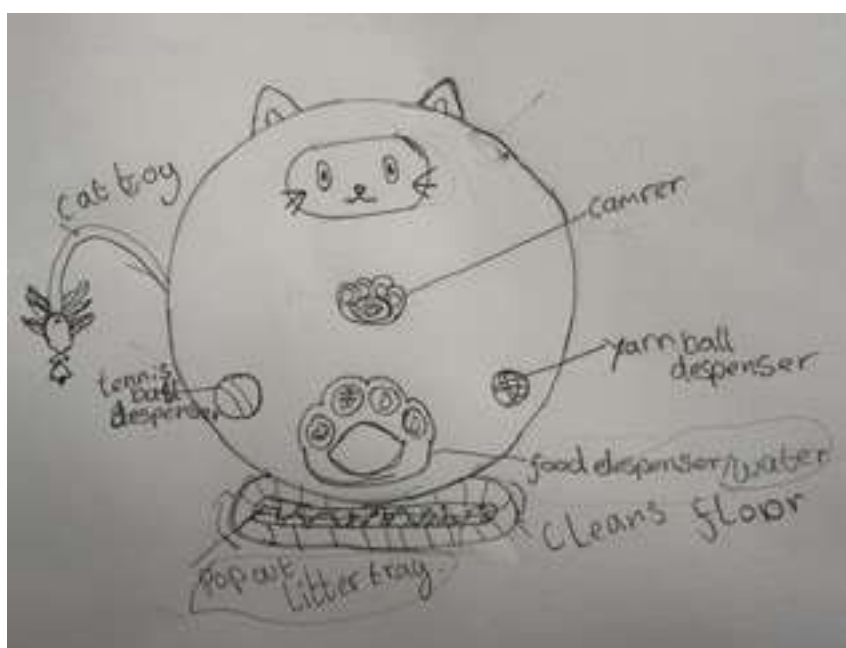
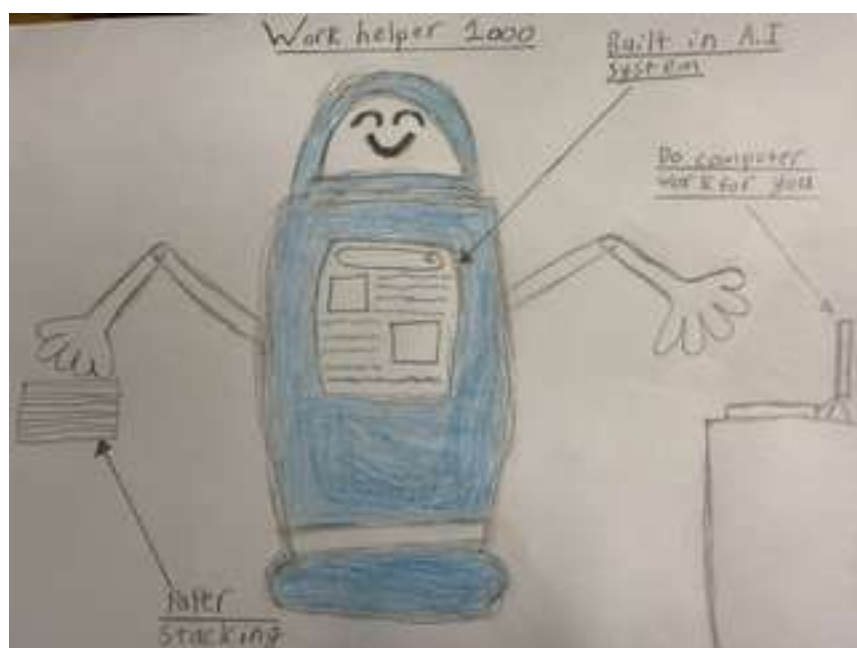


Osprey Class

In English this week, everyone has worked super hard and they have produced some fantastic pieces of writing. They began the week by writing a suspense story, either innovating our model text 'Zelda Claw and the Rain Cat' or writing a sequel to that text. We then moved onto a non-fiction unit of work focusing on explanation texts – we read an example that was about a robot called the 'Teacher Pleaser Machine'. We watched some Wallace and Gromit Cracking Contraptions clips for ideas and the children designed their own machines/robots. To end the week, they planned and wrote an explanation text about it.

In maths, Osprey class have started a unit of work on converting units of measure and this week focused on kilograms, kilometres, millimetres and millilitres.

In science this week, Osprey have been exploring the circle of life. We've been learning to name the key stages of a mammal's life cycle, tracking the changes that happen at each stage and even comparing our own human growth milestones with other mammals in the animal kingdom.



Barn Owls

In mathematics this week, the Barns Owls have continued their work on shape. The children have reinforced their line work on horizontal and vertical lines, as well as looking parallel and perpendicular lines. The children have revised names of 2D shapes identifying their properties. They have also been introduced to the names of 7, 9 and 10 sided shapes.

Barn Owls have started a new unit of work on biographies. After sharing information about our lives so far, the children wrote a biography about themselves as a cold task. Following this, the children have been introduced to the biography of The Big, Bad Wolf. The biography explains how the wolf has been misunderstood and that the Big Bad Wolf's "huffing and puffing" was actually a medical condition that led to accidental property damage and a prison sentence. The story of his life led a film career with Disney before he retired to the Isle of Man with his family.

Summer is still loading!

Hopefully the warm weather will return – when it does please send in a named sun hat everyday and sunscreen should be applied before coming to school. We still have a number of children who frequently do not have a water bottle in school, please make sure your child has a water bottle with them each day.

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

Information for next week

- Osprey Class will have Forest School on Monday afternoon
- Kestrel, Woodland and EYFS have Forest School as normal
- Osprey Class will be at Garsington Studios all day Tuesday – school uniform please – see email sent 04/06/2026
- Reception Vision and Hearing checks are on Thursday morning

Louise Long
Headteacher

Headteacher Awards



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Maths Whizz Award



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

Date	Occasion	Who?
June 2026		
9 th	Garsington Workshop from 1pm – Osprey Class only – now at Garsington Studios	Osprey Class 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
8 th	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	Ib fest Week	Everyone
17 th	Pebbles Last Day	Pebbles
20 th	Leavers' Service 9.15am, St Nicholas Church	Year 6 Families
22 nd	End of Term Celebration – 12.45pm – location TBD	Everyone
22 nd	End of Term – 1.30pm	Everyone

2026/2027 Term Dates

Term	Open on the morning of	Close on the afternoon of
Autumn	Wednesday 2 nd September 2026	Friday 23 rd October 2026 3.15pm
	Monday 2 nd November 2026	Friday 18 th December 2026 1.30pm
Spring	Monday 4 th January 2027	Thursday 11 th February 2027 3.15pm
	Monday 22 nd February 2027	Thursday 25 th March 2027 1.30pm
Summer	Monday 12 th April 2027	Friday 28 th May 2027 3.15pm
	Monday 7 th June 2027	Wednesday 21 st July 2027 1.30pm

INSET DAYS 2026/2027

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Tuesday 1st September 2026
Friday 12th February 2027
+ 3 more INSET Days to be confirmed