

# Ibstone CE Primary School Newsletter

*Nurture - Inspire - Grow*

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Headteacher: Mrs Louise Long

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Dear Families,

Wow! What a lot of donations! Thank you so much for your generosity! The Community Matters' Food Bank in Lane End will be so grateful. They are currently supporting 27 families in the local area and I know that the donations from Ibstone will make a huge difference. I will be taking the donations to Holy Trinity Church on Tuesday morning with some of our Key Stage 2 children.



It has been a week of wildlife in school this week, we have had some interesting visitors in the Ark and a loveliness (who knew!) of ladybirds in the Ladybirds' Classroom! A huge thank you Mrs Senior and Ms Robertson for being wildlife lifeguards when one of our visitors found themselves struggling in a toilet bowl swimming lesson!

Well done to our KS2 children for being extremely sensible whilst our wildlife visitors popped into the Ark.

## **Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 History Off the Page**

As part of our Discover Curriculum this term the children in KS1 & KS2 have a History focus. We have looked to take them out on school trips to support this learning but sadly the increasing coach costs means that this is not financially viable for parents or the school. A coach for 30 children is £450, a minibus for 16 is £350, add in the workshop costs and we are looking at nearly £30 a child.

So in true Ibstone style, we have looked at how we can be more creative and still give our children the most amazing experiences. We will be having a KS1 & KS2 History Day on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November. During this day the children will be invited to dress up in costumes appropriate to that period of time and they will be immersed in the history of the era for the day. The cost of the day will be £10 per child, this is payable via iPal – School Trips – School History Day.

Woodland, Kestrel and Osprey Class should have brought home a letter today with more information. They have also been emailed out.

## Weekly Round Up

### Pebbles

Pebbles have started their Little Wandle phonics sessions this week. They have been playing games and learning nursery rhymes to support their phonological development. Each week they will learn a new nursery rhyme!

The children have enjoyed doing number puzzles this week. They are working on recognising numbers 1-5 and putting them in the correct order. We have been doing lots of counting during our play, counting cars, bricks, food and steps. Anything can be counted!!

We loved listening to a story about an Alligator who had false teeth after which we painted our own false teeth using empty egg boxes.



### Ladybirds

This week in Ladybirds we have been thinking about our family; taking turn to listen to each other to find out who is in our family. We have enjoyed painting our families, thinking about the size of each member; who is the biggest and who is the smallest. We have also made our families out of stones. We have enjoyed a collection of Titch books using these as different starting points.

In mathematics we have been thinking about size, exploring the weight of different objects and finding out which is heavier and lighter. We carried out an investigation to help Finley Fish find a new home. We needed to test different size containers to find out which was the best to transport him by holding the most water.

In phonics the sounds of the week are g,o,c,k. We also learnt that we are not able to decode all words and some we just have to learn. Over the weeks we have new words we have to learn. This week's tricky word is 'is'

We have also been working on lots of activities to develop our gross and fine motor skills. These are the skills we need in order to be able to dress ourselves, be agile and flexible in our movements, hold a pencil correctly and use scissors effectively. We have sent home some ideas for helping your child develop their gross motor skills this week. These activities are great fun and are essential to help your child develop their body awareness, core strength, balance and concentration. These gross motor skills develop using the whole body and are necessary for your child to develop their fine motor skills. We will send some fine motor skills ideas home next week.



### Woodland Class

In English, Woodland Class have been writing senses poems using adjectives, prepositions and verbs. They have also been planning their own versions of Augustus and His Smile, changing the main character and settings.

In mathematics, Year 1 have finished their unit on place value. This week they have been learning to use the language of 'less than, greater than and equal to' to compare numbers and objects. Year 2 have been learning to estimate numbers on a number line and have also been comparing objects and numbers.

In science, Woodland Class investigated their sense of taste. The children enjoyed tasting different foods including dark chocolate, lemon, popcorn, bell pepper and bananas. We then identified their different flavours including sweet, salty, sour and bitter.

In history, we continued to look at the life of Florence Nightingale. This week we ordered key events from her life chronologically along a timeline.



### Kestrel Class

In English this week we have started to write our innovated version of the text. The class have thought of new ideas of different portals for their character to enter a new world. They have used lots of lovely descriptive language to show the reader what is on the other side of the portal. We are looking forward to reading their finished stories next week.

In mathematics, the Nemos have started to work on Addition and Subtraction. They have been using their knowledge of number bonds to help them when using larger numbers up to 999. The Frogs have continued working on rounding to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000. They will do a little more of this next week before moving on to the next unit.

In science we continued our exploration of magnets and tested different objects in our classroom to see if they were magnetic or not. We also did an experiment which demonstrated the magnetic field of a bar magnet using metal dust. There were some wow moments for us all!

### Osprey Class

This week in English, we have started to write our shared class story. Osprey Class have chosen to base our portal story on a coral reef that has been destroyed by pollution. Our main character then gets transported to the past, back to when the coral reef was alive and thriving.

Both Year 5 and 6 have started their new modules: Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Y5 have started to work out mental strategies that can help them work out addition and subtraction more quickly. Y6 have started to look at common factors between numbers and have sorted them into Venn diagrams.

This week in history, our focus has been on WW1 propaganda. The children have created their own propaganda posters with a specific target audience in mind. In computing, we have used Scratch to create 'brute force hacking' codes for 3- and 4-digit numbers!



## Barn Owls

In mathematics, the children have been working on recalling number bonds up to 10 in a variety of contexts. They then applied this knowledge to larger numbers, understanding the power of place value, for example:  $3 + 2 = 5$ , so  $30 + 20 = 50$ ,  $300 + 200 = 500$ . We focused on 3-digit numbers, practising how adding or subtracting single digits, or multiples of ten, impacts the hundreds, tens, and ones columns. This careful column work builds the essential knowledge in mental arithmetic.

In English, we have used our imaginations to create our own portal story. Using the structure of *Elf Road*, the children channelled their imaginations to create their own worlds and narratives. They planned and wrote their own stories, which featured everything from dragon-filled landscapes to sweet escapes in Candy Land.

Enjoy your weekend!

Louise Long  
Headteacher

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

Date	Occasion	Who?
<b>October 2025</b>		
All month	Black History Month	Everyone
6 <sup>th</sup>	Tours for Reception 2026 start – please see flyer at the end of the newsletter	New starters 2026
13 <sup>th</sup>	Open Classrooms – 3.30pm – 5.15pm – more information to follow	Everyone
14 <sup>th</sup>	Parents Evening – more information to follow	Everyone
15 <sup>th</sup>	Parents Evening – more information to follow	Everyone
22 <sup>nd</sup>	End of Term	Everyone
23 <sup>rd</sup>	The Pop Up Pumpkin Patch – please share the poster	Everyone
23 <sup>rd</sup>	INSET Day	Staff only
24 <sup>th</sup>	INSET Day	Staff only
<b>November 2025</b>		
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Back to school	Everyone
6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>KS1 &amp; KS2 History Off the Page Day – please see main body of newsletter 3/10/25</b>	<b>KS1 &amp; KS2 children</b>
11 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Day	Everyone
13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Michael Rosen Poetry Day</b>	<b>Everyone</b>
13 <sup>th</sup>	World Kindness Day	Everyone
14 <sup>th</sup>	Children in Need – more information to follow	Everyone
28 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Trees & Christmas Craft Fair	Everyone
29 <sup>th</sup>	Children's Christmas Fair	Everyone
<b>December 2025</b>		
9 <sup>th</sup>	EYFS / KS1 Nativity Performance -2pm – St Nicholas Church	EYFS / KS1 Families
wk beginning 9 <sup>th</sup>	KS2 Christmas Performances – more information to follow	Everyone
19 <sup>th</sup>	End of term 1.30pm	Everyone
<b>January 2026</b>		
6 <sup>th</sup>	Back to school	Everyone
<b>February 2026</b>		
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Open Classrooms – 3.30pm – 5.15pm – more information to follow	Everyone
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Parents Evening – more information to follow	Everyone
4 <sup>th</sup>	Parents Evening – more information to follow	Everyone
9 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup>	Children's Mental Health Week - more information to follow	Everyone
10 <sup>th</sup>	Safer Internet Day	Everyone
12 <sup>th</sup>	End of Term – 3.15pm / 3.25pm	Everyone
13 <sup>th</sup>	INSET Day	Staff only
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Back to school	Everyone
<b>March 2026</b>		
6 <sup>th</sup>	World Book Day – more details to follow	Everyone
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Ibstone Circle – more information to follow	Everyone
26 <sup>th</sup>	Stations of the Cross Easter Walk	Everyone
27 <sup>th</sup>	End of Term – 1.30pm	Everyone
<b>April 2026</b>		
13 <sup>th</sup>	Back to school	Everyone
<b>May 2026</b>		
5 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 Adventure Week	Year 5 only
11 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 SATs Week	Year 6 only
22 <sup>nd</sup>	End of Term – 3.15pm	Everyone
<b>June 2026</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	INSET Day	Staff Only
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Back to school	Everyone
15 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Adventure Week	Year 6 only

July 2026		
7 <sup>th</sup>	Transition Day	Everyone
9 <sup>th</sup>	KS2 Sports Morning 9am-10.30am – more information to follow	KS2 families
10 <sup>th</sup>	EYFS & KS1 Sports Morning 9am-10.30am – more information to follow	Ladybirds & Woodland Class families
4 <sup>th</sup>	Pebbles Sports Morning 11pm-12pm – more information to follow	Pebbles families
13 <sup>th</sup>	Ibfest Week – more information to follow	Everyone
17 <sup>th</sup>	Pebbles Last Day	Pebbles
20 <sup>th</sup>	Leavers' Service 9.15am, St Nicholas Church	Year 6 Families
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Garden Celebration – 12.45pm	Everyone

# IBSTONE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## OPEN DAYS

TOURS AVAILABLE FROM 6TH OCT

As this is one of the biggest decisions you make as a parent, we are very flexible and invite you to see our school in action at a time that works for you and your family. If you would like to book a tour please contact us.

**WHAT WE OFFER**

- Small, nurturing environment
- Very experienced staff
- Weekly Forest School for all year groups
- Wrap around care from 7.45am
- A family feel
- Pebbles Nursery 9am-12pm daily





**FIND OUT MORE**

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