

Volume 1: December
2023

IVINGSWOOD NEWS

A round-up of recent events at Ivingswood Academy



Find out all about our learning over the first term at Ivingswood Academy.

That was a very busy term! So many great events and learning opportunities for our children at Ivingswood.

We have had school trips to London and Chiltern Hills Academy, visitors to school, nativities, craft events, music performances, and charity days.

Read on to find out what each class have been learning about and also some future news for the Spring term.

School reopens to pupils on Thursday 4th January 2024. Breakfast club is open from 8am. Other pupils must arrive at school by 8.55am. I look forward to seeing you then.

Mrs C Flynn
Deputy Headteacher



Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2024 from all the team at Ivingswood Academy.



Catkin Class - Miss Rose, Mrs Beulah, Mrs Woolnough, Miss Hayes,
Ms Hashmi and Mrs Zain

What an exciting term Nursery have had, learning about light and dark, finding out about nocturnal animals, making soup and of course, practicing for our Nativity. The children did so well to learn lots of songs and they performed like superstars on the day, it was very emotional!

All the children have been learning about their emotions and describing their feelings. Learning how to recognise and name feelings is the first step in children being able to regulate their own emotions, a really important life skill we work hard at developing in Nursery.

Hoglets have been working on their turn taking skills and becoming confident to identify and name lots of different things, from animals to food, household objects to body parts. Hedgehogs have been practicing their writing skills, comparing sizes and measuring and learning to carefully follow instructions in their PE lessons.

We are really looking forward to seeing children wear their purple polo shirts that they all received last week. The children look very smart and show they belong to our Ivingswood family. The polo shirts should be worn each day and are available to purchase from KL Schoolwear.

We have also been given a new CD player by the PTA, essential for our morning dancing and playing our tidy up time music!

Next term, we are looking forward to creating lots of challenges for the children as our topic is ***Give it a Go!***

All the Nursery Team wish you all a Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.



Snowdrop - Mrs Allen and Mrs Akhtar

Reception have had a wonderful half-term of learning and having great fun while they learn. Our topic this half-term has been Special People, Special Places and we have learnt all about the people who help us in our school and the people who help us in the wider community. We have learnt about different places people go to worship and about the different festivals, which are celebrated at this time of year. While learning about these different festivals, we have looked at how we are the same and how we are different and we have celebrated our individuality.

Our maths focus has been on learning all we can about numbers 1-5 before we move onto the higher numbers. We have looked at how to make those numbers using smaller numbers and one more and one less than our chosen number. During our Literacy lessons, we have been sharing more of our ideas in longer sentences, retelling stories, making up our own stories and writing short sentences. We haven't done all our learning in the classroom this half-term though. We experimented with some outside learning too when we went on a hunt for owls in our school environment after reading **Owl Babies by Martin Waddell**. It was fun but rather chilly so we finished our learning session with a hot chocolate which made up for not finding any owls! We are going to continue with our outside learning next term so please wrap up warm during the chilly months.

We also joined three other schools to take part in a Sport Workshop at Chiltern Hills Academy. It was great fun and we learnt lots of new P.E. skills and we were very lucky to be transported there and back in a minibus so we could save all our energy for the activities!

Our Christmas Nativity with Nursery was another highlight of this half-term. The children all had lots of fun dressing up as the characters from the Nativity and singing songs to their families.

We wish you a Merry Christmas if you are celebrating and if not a wonderful winter holiday and we look forward to seeing you all next term for more learning and fun.
The Reception Team.



Bluebell Class - Miss Brookes and Mrs Harbor

Wow, what a full half term we have had in Bluebell Class! We have, spent lots of time preparing for our nativity, but there has been lots of meaningful learning in the run up to Christmas too! Well done to all the children who have been doing lots of reading at home – your phonics teachers have really noticed your improvement and it makes us all so proud. In phonics we've been trying hard to build our fluence when reading, using lots of 'Fred in your head' and expression when we are reading. In our maths lessons we have been learning to add and subtract within 10 and name, describe and sequence 2D and 3D shapes. This has been quite tricky, but the children have all demonstrated our value of aspire, and persevered through it all – well done team! I look forward to seeing who has been able to complete my Christmas Numbots challenge and festive problems when we return in the new year. In writing lessons, we have been learning to write poetry and a non-fiction report about toys. I was very excited to see the quality of our independent autumn poems, 'On Autumn Walks', which we now have proudly on display by our classroom. Our 'Home Sweet Home' geography focus has now come to an end, but the children have really impressed with their local knowledge, developing map reading skills and identifying the difference between human and physical features, often referring to our trip to Chesham in October. They were very excited to learn that our new unit for the spring term is Whizzpoppers, where they will be looking at Roald Dahl's stories and life. Our first Science focus was seasonal changes, then plants, which will continue into next year. I loved seeing how the children have embraced our investigations, how curious and enquiring they have been. We have planted some radish, spring onion and carrot seeds in our classroom and we hope to observe these as they grow – so long as Miss Brookes remembers to water them! Miss Brookes and Mrs Harbor are so proud of how you have all focused this half term, we have had so much fun together that we could never fit it all into this newsletter! We hope you have a fun and restful

break and can't wait to see you all back in January. To all who celebrate, Merry Christmas!



Lavender Class - Mrs Bell, Miss East and Miss Christie

Year 2 have had a jam packed half term. We have learnt so much and loved doing lots of art! Year 2 have loved learning about our Artist of the half term, Alma Thomas, and were so proud to show their parents their amazing artwork. The teachers were impressed how the children explained their artwork and how they created it.

In Maths, we finished our unit on addition and subtraction and the children really enjoyed drawing and using base 10 to support them. We have started our shape unit and loved our classroom Elf introducing 2D shapes with an activity to retrieve our prior learning! In English we loved writing about what we would do 'If we were in charge of the school!' The children wanted to eat lots of chocolate cake and have break time all day. We enjoyed reading the story, "The day the Crayons Quit" by Oliver Jeffers. Our Felt tips disappeared because they were upset that we left the lids off over the weekend. After we wrote great persuasive letters apologising to the felt tips, the felt tips spoke to the Elf and the Elf gave us our felt tips back.

During our geography unit, Home Sweet Home, Year 2 enjoyed learning about Chesham and our non-European Town of Waterfall in South Africa. The children loved learning about the similarities and differences between the two Towns and drew some great maps!

We had a great half term learning about the Uses of Everyday Materials and finished it off the unit by designing and creating doll houses out of junk modelling. Well done Year 2 for a great term of learning! We wish you a Merry Christmas and a restful break! We look forward to seeing you back in the new year for a fabulous Spring Term!



Rose Class - Mrs Liggins, Mrs Flynn, Miss Akhtar and Mrs Gomm

Wow, what a busy and action-packed half term we have had in Year 3. In English we have written our own explanation texts for a robot pet of our choice. The children enjoyed creating the names of the different parts of their pets and explaining how they worked. They also worked together to design food for a robot dog. We are currently enjoying our narrative unit 'The Secret of Black Rock'.

In our maths, we have worked hard on addition and subtraction, learning how to use column method to solve calculations. We are now focusing on multiplication and division, which will continue into the Spring Term.

Please take the time to encourage and help your child learn their times tables and don't forget to use Times Table Rockstars.

We have just finished our work on 'Forces and Magnets'. We have had the chance to investigate what materials are magnetic and whether an object is attracted to a magnet from a distance. We have made predictions, carried out the investigations, observed and drawn conclusions from our results.

As part of our study of Chesham in History and Geography, we learnt that Chesham is twinned with three other European towns: Houilles in France, Friedrichsdorf in Germany and Archena in Spain. This fed into our food technology work, where we worked together to make a Spanish salad, 'pipirrana', and bake some bread, 'pan basico'.

The children demonstrated some fabulous chopping, mixing and kneading skills and thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience – especially the tasting of it! A highlight of the term has to be our recorder lessons with Mrs Papacosta. We have learned so much and have loved every minute of our lessons. Thank you to all the parents and carers who came to our music concert last Friday. We hoped you enjoyed listening to it as much as we did performing for you all.

The whole of the Year 3 team wishes you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and are looking forward to continuing our learning in 2024.



Maple Class Miss Daley, Ms Batten and Ms Perviaz.

What a busy Autumn term!

We have just completed our history work all about the Romans – the children particularly enjoyed learning about the gory goings on in the Colosseum and about the lives of gladiators!

In our English sessions, we have enjoyed the book *The Whale* and have written our own stories about explorers discovering rare and unusual creatures in the habitats.

In our maths, we have been learning how to use times table facts to solve multiplication and division problems. We need to practise our times tables so that we can get even quicker with this! Don't forget, Times Table Rock Stars and MyMaths are there to help you practise these skills! Having completed our States of Matter unit in science, we were able to apply our knowledge of particles to begin to explain how sound travels. We have investigated sound waves and vibrations, observing sound through banging drums, using slinky springs and putting tuning forks in water. We made string telephones and could explain how the sound vibrations are passed more easily through the solid string and cans than through the air (a gas). We have also been on a (very soggy) sound walk in the local environment where we discussed the impact of noise on the people who live near the school, including fast cars, delivery trucks and children on the playground. On our return to school in January, we will make some ear defenders to protect our ears from some of these noises! We are now all thoroughly into the festive spirit and are looking forward to a restful Christmas break before embarking on all the new learning that 2024 has to offer!

Merry Christmas!



Cherry Class - Miss Knowler and Miss Adams

We had an incredible half term! We managed to finish our class novel Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone in time for Christmas, we can't wait to watch the film!

As our unit of work called 'Alien Invasion!' comes to a close, we have learnt so many new interesting facts about our planet and how the Space Race dominated most of the 20th Century. It's one small step for us but one giant leap for growing our brains!

We have thoroughly enjoyed researching and performing our persuasive pitches about how important the reduction of the use of single use plastic is to us and generations to come. Even though this was a very tough subject, we found ourselves litter picking at lunchtime and helping others to recycle our waste.

Maths has been super tricky this term as we have been looking at adding fractions with different denominators and subtracting mixed numbers. We were confused at first but knew that if we showed resilience and trusted our ability, we could achieve anything!

Miss Knowler and Miss Adams want to wish all of Year 5 and their families a Merry Christmas and we look forward to a cracking new year!



Oak Class - Mrs Dunton and Miss Sample

We have had a very busy time in Year 6 this term, including our Fundraising Week, where we raised £245.50, thank you again to everyone who supported the children in that success. Once we know how it will be spent, we will share that with you.

In our writing lessons, we have completed two pieces of text, one called 'Varmints', and another called 'Thinkers Rap'. In addition to this, the children had fun writing a setting description based on a Christmas commercial, it has been great to see the quality of their writing develop, and I look forward to seeing what they can do next term.

Since October we have completed ever increasingly complex fractions lessons, but the children are now able to use a range of operations to multiply, divide, add and subtract fractions. We will continue to build on these skills next term as we progress to ratio!

For science this term the children have been finding out about classification of living things, we investigated which plants and animals existed in the grounds of the school and then had to classify them into their relevant groups. We discovered that all animals have a Latin name, which is used to identify animals all over the world. Ask your child what a lion is called in Latin!

Since September we have explored the world of the ancient Greeks in our unit called Eureka! This finished with the children completing a double-page spread about their learning, it was fantastic to see their enthusiasm for this historical subject and I look forward to our new history and geography units next term.

For the past few weeks in computing, we have been looking at how variables work in a Scratch game, we then learnt how to alter the variables and what happens when you move variable to different sprites. We will continue this until end of learning next term and hope to progress to creating our own games with variables.

It has been great for us to see the children develop in Year 6 and we hope that they continue to grow as great learners and as our school role-models in the new year. Thank you to parents and guardians for your support, have a restful break and we look forward to seeing you all in January.

We are all very proud of the incredible progress Year 6 have made with their swimming this term, there were a lot of certificates to give out at the end of term, including some level 7, which has never been reached by any of our children before!



Other News

Social Media

Please follow us on social media @ivingswood on Twitter/X and Ivingswood Academy on Facebook. We post regular updates on the children's learning throughout the school!

Office

Please book lunches via parent pay

Any medical updates or changes please let the school office know the first week back.

KS1 Nativity

A huge thank you to all of those who supported this year's Key Stage 1 nativity. We are all very proud of the children and their efforts which would not have been possible without those who joined us for one (and in some cases two!) of our performances, those who helped their child rehearse their lines and those who provided costume. From all the KS1 alien team, Merry Christmas!

Staffing News

Today we say 'Goodbye' to Mrs Christie from our team who has decided to take a change of career. We will miss you and thank you for everything you have done for our children, breakfast club, and staff. You are most welcome back anytime to volunteer with us!

Other News

Sports News

This half term it was netball season and we played extremely well in all our games leading up to the tournament, winning two, drawing one and losing two. As the season went on, we got stronger, and our confidence grew, and we were proving to be tough opponents. During the half term our marking and passing skills as well as the quality of netball we played improved greatly.

We also attended the Chiltern League netball finals day where we played our last two league games which we won, finishing third in the league. After reaching the semi-finals, we finished 4th in the tournament. A fantastic result for the team. Well done !!!!

Thank you to all the parents, carers, grandparents and staff for supporting our children with lifts to away games and cheering us on from the sidelines, it is greatly appreciated.

During this half term years 1 & 2 have been working on their fitness, we have been doing lots of different activities, both high and low impact and discussing the effects exercise has on our bodies.

Years 3 & 4 have been focusing on hockey and developing their dribbling, passing, and stopping skills. They have perfected the push pass and can dribble the ball with great speed.

Years 5 & 6 have been getting ready for the next Chilterns league season, Tag rugby. They have worked incredibly hard on passing the ball behind and maintaining a decent shape as they push forward to score a try.

All classes have also used the climbing apparatus in the hall, helping to develop their upper body strength as well as some of the other gym equipment. We were able to complete a pike and tuck jump and then land safely.



Our amazing netball team! Best Ivingswood team EVER!

Other News

PTA News

The PTA held our Christmas Fayre earlier this month. We raised a huge £1,168 – We will be meeting with our school council for ideas on how to use this to improve our school and learning experiences. We would like to thank everyone for their support in making this such an incredible success!

Our stocking stuffer sweet raffle raised over £120 for the school! Well done to our winners and thank you for taking part.

Keep an eye in your book bags for events in the Spring Term, we currently have a disco booked for 27th March – as well as activities planned for Easter. Our last disco proved very popular, so not one to miss! Feel free to join our group on Facebook for regular updates – Search for Ivingswood PTA.

Charity Fundraising

We have had a number of fundraising events at Ivingswood this term. We are showing that we live our school values of: respect, aspire, integrity and nurture. Thank you to everyone who contributed to these worthy causes.



Uniform

Well done and thank you for ensuring that your child / children are coming into school in their correct uniform. This will remain a focus in the Spring term and anyone not wearing the correct clothing or footwear will receive a notice slip with the correction identified. Class teachers will let you of any changes of PE days in January. [KL Schoolwear](#) are our uniform providers should you need to order anything. Remember your child needs a coat in school every day as we play out in all weathers. You may also wish to pack additional footwear (old trainers/ wellies) for them to use when they are outside.

Attendance Matters

Your child's attendance at school is very important. Many children are returning home today with 100% attendance badges as they have been in school everyday of the Autumn term. If your child misses a day or two, they miss a sequence of learning which can lead to them having mis-understandings. It is difficult for children to 'catch-up' on their missed learning. Good attendance is over 95%. Any leave taken outside of school holidays is unauthorised and teachers will not set work for missed learning. You must complete a 'Leave of Absence form'(available from the school office and our website) to inform us of your child's whereabouts. All attendance matters are referred to Buckinghamshire County Council for monitoring and any issuing of fixed penalties. Those families with poor attendance will receive letters from the school advising them of our monitoring after the Christmas break. Attendance meeting with Attendance Officers from Bucks County Council will be held for families who have not improved their attendance from the start of the Autumn term. Our attendance procedures are unchanged and are as follows - if your child is unwell, it is your responsibility to contact the school office via phone call by 9.15am to inform us. Any children arriving after 8.55am are late and must be signed in at the school office by a parent. Our lessons start at 8.55. If your child is late, they are missing out on learning time.

Community Links



At a recent meeting with all the schools of Chesham, it was agreed that all schools would take part in a collective non-uniform day to raise money for Love Lowndes. This is the community project to raise money to improve the play areas in Lowndes Park, Chesham. I know many of our families use the park, so this would benefit us all. The non-uniform day is Friday 12th

January. Please give what you can afford to this fantastic cause.

New houses

As reward for doing good work and following our rules and values, children are awarded 'house points' and this term we have re-named our houses.

School Council and all the classes had a vote and decide to name them: Air, Water, Fire and Earth. The children then took part in a 'design a logo' competition for the new house names. Winners and designs will be announced the first week of the Spring term.

Exciting project...

This is a photo of an area of our school field. It is the patch of grass that the children currently use as a football pitch. However, there is an exciting project taking place over the Christmas break.....



Information Board

Upcoming Events

Wednesday 3 rd January	School closed – INSET day
Thursday 4 th January	Spring term starts 8.45
Wednesday 10 th January	Reception class parents/carers – Listen to your child read and help with phonics meeting 9am
Thursday 11 th January	Oxford Science Museum planetarium visit – Year 5 and 6
Thursday 11 th January	Year 2 Our Wonderful World afternoon
Thursday 1 st February	Year 4 GeoBus virtual workshop
WB 5 th February	Keeping Safe Week
WB 5 th February	Years 1 and 2 Fundraiser Week
Wednesday 7 th February	Year 3 Art Exhibition 2.30pm
Friday 9 th February	Year 6 Class assembly 9am
Friday 9 th February	Parents to come into school to see the work from 2.30pm to celebrate our Keeping Safe week.
Monday 12 th – Friday 16 th February	Half term
Monday 19 th February	School opens 8.45am
Monday 19 th February	Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents – Come and have lunch with your child.
Wednesday 21 st February	Year 3 and Year 4 parents – Come and have lunch with your child.
Friday 23 rd February	Year 5 and Year 6 parents – Come and have lunch with your child.
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day
WB 11 th March	Years 3, 4 & 5 Fundraiser Week
WB 11 th March	Science Week
Monday 18 th March	Assessment Week
Tuesday 19 th March	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 20 th March	Parents' Evening
Friday 22 nd March	Year 1 Class assembly 9am
Friday 22 nd March	Year 1 and Year 5 Music Performance – Time TBC
Wednesday 27 th March	Year 1 Parents Phonics Meeting 9am
Wednesday 27 th March	Year 4 Art Exhibition 2.30pm
Wednesday 27 th March	PTA Spring Disco – Time TBC
Thursday 28 th March	End of term – 1.15pm