

Volume 1: October 2023

IVINGSWOOD NEWS

A round-up of recent events at Ivingswood Academy



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



Key Stage 1 Library

What a fantastic start to the new year we have had! We welcomed our Ivingswood Academy families back to school on Monday 4th September and have already reached half term. Time flies when you are having fun!

It is great to hear all about the adventures the children have had and also to hear how well they have settled into their new classes.

We welcome Mrs Dunning to our Ivingswood Team as our SENDCo. She is at our school on Thursdays and Fridays. Other new staff to Ivingswood include: Mrs Liggins in Year 3, Ms Hashmi in Nursery, Ms Parvaiz in Year 4 and Miss Papacosta, our music teacher.

Have a restful half-term break and we look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 1st November.

Mrs. C Flynn

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

Nursery have had a great half term, making the most of the beautiful weather and playing in our garden. Water play, sand and digging in our mud pit has been very popular! We went on an Autumn walk and noticed the changes to the trees and plants. We also picked apples from the trees on the field and made a delicious apple crumble.

Children have been learning all about themselves, their families and each other. We have a guess the baby display with some very cute photos! We have also been learning the class rules and routines and helping our new children to feel at home. We have held 2 open mornings. This term, if you know of anyone who would like a place in our Nursery, please spread the word. Application forms can be found on the EYFS noticeboard or at the office. If you have a child who needs a Reception class space for September 2024, please contact the school office to arrange a tour of the school.



Snowdrop - Mrs Allen and Mrs Akhtar

Reception have had an amazing first half-term in school and I am sure they will be looking forward to a rest over half-term after all that learning! Our topic this half-term has been 'Healthy Me' and we have been learning all about how to keep healthy by eating good food, getting plenty of sleep, looking after our teeth and keeping fit. We have also been looking at our feelings and how we can explain to others how we are feeling and get help from a grown-up when we need it. We read stories about all different kinds of families and drew pictures of our own families and some amazing self-portraits of ourselves. We have also been learning a special song about brushing our teeth which your child can teach you. Here is the link so you can enjoy it together!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gdcn9KbNTQY>

We look forward to welcoming you to the Reception Class phonics morning at 9am on Wednesday 1st November so you can find out how to support your child on their journey to becoming a reader. Everyday Reception have been making amazing progress with learning their new

sounds and blending them together to hear words, so a big thank you to all the parents who have been watching the phonics videos with their children as this is having a huge impact on how quickly your children will be able to start reading.

Welcome Wednesday will move to Wednesday 8th November and we look forward to seeing you then. In the meantime, have a wonderful half-term break and we will see you on Wednesday 1st November.



Bluebell Class - Miss Brookes and Mrs Harbor

Bluebell class have transitioned well from Reception and have risen to the challenge of being super Year 1 learners! It has been a very busy start to the year filled with lots of excitement and new challenges in all our learning. We felt very accomplished to complete our first unit of learning in maths: place value to 10, and are now moving onto addition and subtraction, where we have started exploring part-whole models. In writing, we have explored 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' and 'On Sudden Hill' and have used these as inspiration for our own independent writing. Everyone is trying hard to write in full sentences, being careful with their handwriting, using their 'Fred fingers' and remembering to include capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. Bluebell class are shaping up to be super writers!

In science, we have enjoyed learning about the seasons and using our weather station to discuss the weather each day (thank you to the parents who have been helping their child to read the thermometer first thing in the morning!) and enjoyed a visitor teaching us about animal habitats and helping us to create our own play-doh creature.

Our Home Sweet Home topic has been a highlight for many of the children this half term as we have spent lots of time in the kitchen learning about where our food comes from, then planning, designing and preparing our own fruit salads – delicious! We were all very excited about our trip to Chesham on the last day of term to launch the geography part of our topic.

We hope you all enjoy your well-deserved break and look forward to welcoming you back in November!



Lavender Class - Mrs Bell, Miss East and Miss Christie

Year 2 have had a great start to the year! We've settled in well and are enjoying being Team Lavender. The first week, we loved doing 'Grow Great Learners Week' where we learnt about the school values and our school rules. Most importantly, we learnt how we must be ready to learn always.

In maths, we started off with Place Value where we learnt about tens and ones. We learnt how to add and subtract using base 10. In our addition and subtraction unit, we have enjoyed recapping our bonds to 10 and expanding on our knowledge to apply our bonds to 10 in our bonds of 20 and 100!

In English, we have had great fun acting out and exploring our book - 'Last stop on Market Street'. The children wrote some amazing independent writes about a new adventure that Nana and CJ went on. We have done a few extra independent writes this half term. We loved writing about a magical beast for Harry Potter World Book Day and we enjoyed learning about Floella Benjamin to celebrate Black History Month. We have started our new unit on the poem - 'If I were in Charge' and we've enjoyed acting out our poem and finding the shapes in the poem.

In Science, Year 2 have been enjoying learning about the scientific inquiry methods and how we use these to answer our scientific questions. We've enjoyed researching and 'doing a test' to answer our questions for our unit on Everyday Materials. We thoroughly enjoyed testing how flexible different plastics are.

We were lucky to have Oxford Science visit us this week. We loved learning about the different habitats we have in the UK and how animals are adapted and suited for their habitat. We enjoyed creating our own animal out of playdough and writing about where our animal lives and how they are suited for their habitat.

In PE, we thoroughly enjoyed our cricket sessions as well as using the gym equipment for the first time this week. We look forward to continuing to develop our strength through using the gym equipment. During Topic, we have explored our theme - Home Sweet Home. We have started with food technology and have loved designing and creating our own fruit salad. It was a huge hit! They definitely enjoyed eating them the most! We look forward to our local area visit to Chesham on Friday. We look forward to exploring key parts of Chesham and finishing off in Lowndes Park.



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

It has been a full-on start to Year 3 this term. We have completed our first unit of writing based on the Story 'The True Story of the Three Little Pigs'. We enjoyed writing about what the wolf really got up to when he blew down the pigs' houses. We explored the use of alliteration, onomatopoeia and dialogue, among other things, in our writing. Our next unit of writing is a non-fiction, explanation text, 'The Robot Dog'. In maths, this term we have been working hard on our place value knowledge and have made a fantastic start to our work on addition and subtraction.

In science, we have been learning about light and taking part in practical activities and investigations looking at how shadows are created and patterns in the size of shadows. The children had great fun making their own shadow puppets out of different materials.

This week, we also became robot engineers when we had a visit from Oxford Science. We wrote codes to program a robot car to travel along a track. It was frustrating at times, but all the children were amazing and really persevered to problem solve to make their cars follow the track. Our local study topic of Chesham has been fascinating. We have delved into the past, finding out about the 5Bs which Chesham is famous for; beer, brushes, boots, bricks and Baptists. We had a visit from Laura, a member of the Chilterns AONB team, who spoke to us about the River Chess. We also discovered why it is so important to look after our local environment and conserve our water.

We thoroughly enjoyed the cricket sessions with Harry on a Monday. Working with Year 4, we have practiced our bowling, batting and fielding skills. There may be some budding cricketers among us!



Maple Class Miss Daley, Ms Batten and Ms Perviaz.

Year 4 enjoyed our first English unit based on 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes. Our writing explored the use of alliteration, onomatopoeia, speech marks, synonyms for 'said' and adding detail and description, as well as many other writing techniques. Our second unit is a piece of non-fiction based on a holiday brochure and we are enjoying the beautiful beaches and stunning landscapes of Sicily as the weather turns colder outside! Miss Daley's favourite English lesson also took place- food tasting! Yum!

We have been working very hard to explore the different states of matter in science- we have weighed gas, made gases from solids and liquids, measured how quickly liquids move, melted solids and frozen liquids and started to find out about the water cycle. This knowledge will help us in our next topic, 'Sound', particularly when we think about how sound travels.

Year 4 thoroughly enjoyed the cricket sessions with Year 3 this half term. Thank you to Harry, our coach, and Mrs Beulah for providing us with the opportunity to explore these skills.

This half term we were also lucky enough to receive a visit from Ian from Oxford Science. Under Ian's guidance, we wrote code to program a robot around a maze. It took a lot of trial and error, perseverance and resilience, adjusting and improving our code.

We have also enjoyed two online lessons this term – one on climate change and another linked to our Roman topic from the British Museum.



Cherry Class - Miss Knowler and Miss Adams

What an incredible start to the term! Year 5 have settled in very well and have proven themselves to be mature learners. A highlight of ours was definitely winning one of the school trophies!

We have been building on our basic Maths skills from Year 4 and learning how to apply our knowledge to everyday situations. We have done incredibly well with identifying the Maths operation within our word problems.

Our topic is off to a flying start as we start to identify different continents and the countries that they are in. We have found that it would be best that if an alien did land on Earth, we would like it to land in Antarctica... far away from us! We thoroughly enjoyed our VIP experience at The Science Museum in London. We were told by several members of staff that we were very well behaved and asked the experts all the questions we could! Miss Knowler was incredibly proud of how we handled the change in trains! Check out our X (Twitter) account for more photos.

Our first independent write based on the short film "One Small Step" has gone down very well. We understand the importance of punctuation for a reader and how this can change the reader's pace and avoid confusion! We have even been inspired to write our own short stories outside of school.

We will continue our hard work in the run up to Christmas and look forward to new challenges.



Oak Class - Mrs Dunton and Miss Sample

It has been a busy start to Year 6, we have enjoyed taking part in the cricket lessons every Monday, giving us a great boost first thing in the morning! These skills will be valuable in our cricket lessons and tournament next year, ask your child to demonstrate 'little star, big star rock star, bowl.'

We have completed our first English writing unit based around Neil Gaiman's 'The Graveyard Book', the children demonstrated their understanding of creating suspense, evil characters and spooky settings when writing their own bildungsroman (story about growing up).

In maths we have been recapping arithmetic skills from Year 5 as well as using a range of methods to solve multiplication and division questions. It has been nice to see the children grow in interest around our topic 'Eureka!', so far, we have used evidence to determine how true the story of 'Theseus and the Minotaur' was, the Athenians and their rise to power as well as how they differed to the Spartans. We have explored the concept of democracy and will continue to delve into the ancient Greeks next half term as well as looking forward to a virtual visit to the British Museum on the 16th of November.

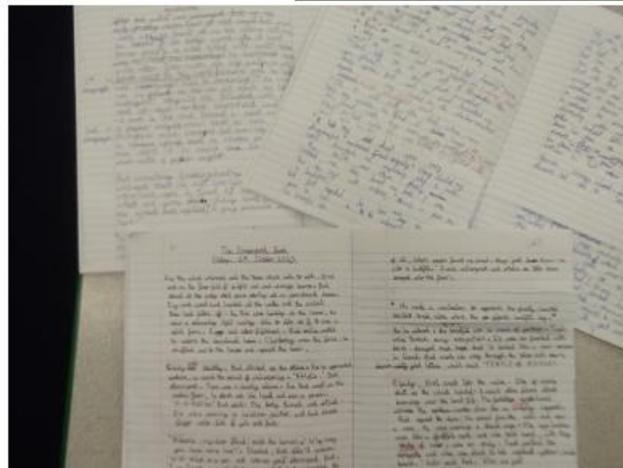
The focus in music this half term has been using Garageband on the iPad, we have learnt the difference between a note and a chord, how to identify major and minor chords, recorded a series of chords with the piano and guitar, then added in backing drums and strings to create our own masterpiece.

Year 6 are working with determination during their swimming lessons, and we are very proud of how well they are doing. Each week, we can see growing confidence, whether that is putting their faces into the water, swimming with a float rather than a noodle, or swimming a greater distance. They are attempting to apply the instructions and advice from their teachers to make improvements. Please ask the children to tell you ways to keep safe around the water, or to describe the different flags that you might see at the beach.

Remember to complete the online form and pay the £30 deposit for the Isle of Wight residential. Payments need to be made by Monday 30th October.

Although we are still in the first term, applications for Year 7 must be made via Bucks County Council – the deadline is October 31st 2023.

Next term, week commencing 20th November, Year 6 will be completing a fundraising week. The money raised will go towards end of year hoodies/treats. A separate letter will be sent out about this.



Other News

Lunch time play

We now have different play zones at lunchtime. Zones include the playground, trim trail, quad, library and football zone. After half term we have some new additions to some of the zones and a very exciting project coming November / December time. We use outside space at lunchtime even if it is raining, so your child needs a coat in school every day. We use all spaces including the grassy areas. If you want to send your child to school with wellies, or old trainers to change into, you can do. If you don't send spare shoes, please be prepared for muddy school shoes.



Other News

Sports News

We have been working hard during our after-school football and netball club this half term, getting better prepared for competing in the Chilterns League. This half term the sport has been football and although we have not won a game yet, we have proved to be difficult opponents and have not made it easy, we have shown a significant improvement in our skill and ability, and we are extremely proud of the team spirit and good sportsmanship our students have shown while competing against other local schools.

Thank you to all the staff and parents who came out to support us in all weathers and a big thank you to Mr. Moulton for his help coaching and refereeing on match days.

We are looking forward to netball next half term.

Year 1 & Year 2 have impressed me with their yoga this half term moving from pose to pose and being able to hold each pose for a much longer time than I could.

Year 3 & 4 have worked hard on the fundamentals this half term seeing how far they can jump, hop and throw, and improving the technique.

Year 5 & 6 have had great fun playing netball (as did I) and have really worked hard on marking their opponents and finding a space as well as their passing.



Other News

PTA News

We have had a number of successful fundraisers this half-term from ice-lolly sales to raffles. Thank you to everyone who has supported the new PTA team. The disco was such a success that many children have begged us when the next one is! The PTA are already planning when we can have a Christmas disco, so look out for that! The recent pumpkin raffles raised over £100, the school disco raised over £350 and the Cauliflower Christmas cards raised £100.

In preparation for our Christmas Fayre on Saturday 2nd December, we are holding a non-uniform day on Friday 24th November. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are asked to bring in chocolates and wrapped sweets for the sweet tombola and Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 are requested to bring bottles for the bottle tombola.

School Council are going to meet up next half term to discuss things that the classes would like to have money to spend on. Watch this space!

If you want to get involved with the PTA, please email

PTA@ivingswoodacademy.org



Uniform

A number of children are not coming into school this term wearing the correct uniform. A few weeks ago, the Uniform Policy was shared with you. Over the half-term, please make sure your child has everything they need. [KL Schoolwear](#) are our school uniform providers should you need anything. It was great to see so many of you at our pre-loved uniform sale on Thursday. We intend to hold another sale next half term. PE kit and trainers can only be worn on PE days. All other days, your child needs to wear school shoes. If your child is not wearing the correct clothing, you will receive a slip informing you what needs to be corrected.

Attendance Matters

Your child's attendance at school is very important. 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. At the moment, our school attendance is 90%. 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 half-term.

If your child is unwell, it is your responsibility to contact the school office via phone call by 9.15am to inform us.

Harvest 2023

Thank you to David from Hope Church for helping us celebrate Harvest last Friday. It was great to see all the children learn about different types of fruits that we have in the world. Thank you on behalf of Chiltern Foodbank for all your donations. It was very generous of you and we know how much it will help families in our local community.

Parents' Evening – 7th and 8th November

After half-term, you will receive a notification on how to book your appointment for parents' evening. This is an opportunity for you to see your child's books, understand their learning attitude and find out what you can do at home to support their learning further.

Information Board

Upcoming Events

Monday 30 th October	School closed – INSET day
Tuesday 31 st October	School closed – INSET day
Wednesday 1 st November	Reception class parents/carers phonics meeting 9am
Tuesday 7 th November	Parents' Evening – more details to follow
Wednesday 8 th November	Parents' Evening – more details to follow
WB 13 th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Thursday 16 th November	Year 6 virtual museum workshop
Friday 17 th November	Children In Need – Home clothes and £1 donation
Monday 20 th November	Year 6 Fundraiser Week
WB 27 th November	Assessment week
Thursday 30 th November	Year 2 Art Exhibition 2.30pm
Friday 1 st December	Decorate the Christmas Tree – non-uniform
Saturday 2 nd December	PTA Christmas Fayre 12pm-2pm
Thursday 7 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 8 th December	School closed – INSET day
Tuesday 12 th December	EYFS Nativity 9.30am
Wednesday 13 th December	KS1 Nativity
Thursday 14 th December	KS1 Nativity
Friday 15 th December	Christmas lunch
Friday 15 th December	Music Performance Year 3 and Year 4 – Time TBC
Monday 18 th December	Trip to the Elgiva Theatre – Cinderella
Tuesday 19 th December	Christmas Café and Craft. Come and make a Christmas craft and visit our café with your child from 2pm.
Wednesday 20 th December	End of term – School closes 1.15pm



**Does your child struggle
with feeling anxious and
overwhelmed?**

**Are you looking for strategies and
ideas on how to help them and a
safe space to talk?**

**Come to our Parent Workshop on
Anxiety run by the Mental Health
Support Team**

Thursday 16th November 1:30-3pm

Tea, coffee and cakes will be provided



Everyone is Welcome

Half term Special

Tea
Cake
Crumpets
+
Burgers
Bouncy
Bible
Bingo



HOPE CHURCH-UPPER BELMONT ROAD

Wednesday 25th October

2.30-4.30

Crafts + toys + games