

Volume 3: February 2024

# IVINGSWOOD NEWS

A round-up of recent events at Ivingswood Academy



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



Have a restful February half-term and we look forward to seeing you on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

Wow! What a wonderful start to 2024 this half term has been. The weeks have flown by because they have been jam-packed with great learning opportunities and fun activities. Well done to Year 6 for their class assembly today and for being brave and going first. Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended.

Remember to keep up-to-date with what is happening at Ivingswood by following us on X and/or Facebook. Ask the office if you need help to set this up. When you do find us on social media, please like, follow and comment on our posts.

Thank you for your continued support this term and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Mrs C Flynn  
Deputy Headteacher

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

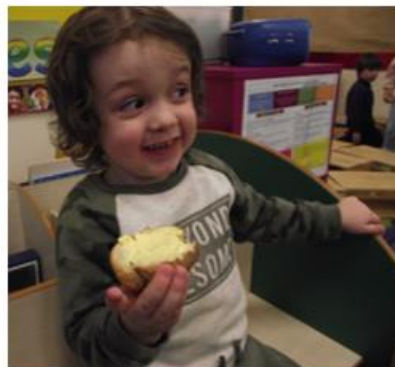
We have welcomed 5 new children this term and the children have been very kind and shown how caring they can be, helping our new little ones settle in and learn the routines and rules of Nursery.

The children have enjoyed this term's theme "Give it a go" We have thought about things we could not do, but with time and practice can now do easily. We have been challenging ourselves to try something tricky and have a go at new things, including trying new foods.

Children continue to learn a new rhyme and Makaton sign each week as well as looking at shapes, numbers, and colours on our Wonderwall.

We have explored ice when it was freezing and have experimented with different types of malleable material, moon sand was very popular. We have also developed our Mud Kitchen so now it's very popular and children love mixing and making a variety of concoctions.

We also made bread and it was delicious!



## Snowdrop - Mrs Allen, Miss Hayes, and Mrs Evans

Reception have had a wonderful first half-of the Spring Term. Our topic has been Houses and Homes and we have found out about homes in our local community and homes all around the world. We learnt all about different animal homes and even went in search of clues of foxes and badgers living in our own school grounds. We have been thinking about our dreams and goals for the future and we started off the term by making winter promises about things we all wanted to get really good at like swimming or riding a bike. Since then, Reception have been exploring the idea of not giving up when we find something tricky and asking an adult to help us achieve your goal. Our new sewing project is a perfect example of when we have needed to try and try again as sewing is a tricky skill to master! We have also been learning about the illustrator and author Quentin Blake this half-term and the children produced some lovely illustrations of his character Angelica Sprocket. Reception have continued developing their number and counting skill since Christmas and they are now making great progress with touching and saying a number each time they count an object and stopping at the end of the set rather than counting on. Our Literacy skills are developing well and many children are now using their phonics skills independently to try to spell out new words, which is wonderful. We have been learning and performing poems from the Poetry Basket which has been great fun. Reception children are making great progress with their reading skills so a big thank you to all the parents/carers for their hard work reading at home with their children as this really does make a huge difference to your child's reading progress.



## Bluebell Class - Miss Brookes and Mrs Harbor

Bluebell class have had a wonderful, Whizzpopping beginning to 2024 and have thoroughly enjoyed immersing themselves in the imagination, life and stories of Roald Dahl in our history unit. They are very much looking forward to next half term where we will be doing lots of Whizzpoppers related art!

In maths, Year 1 have spent this half term understanding and working with numbers up to 20. The children have enjoyed the new challenge of working with two-digit numbers and their hard work now will help them to get ready for when we take the leap to 50 in March.

In English, the children have been focusing on making their sentences more exciting by choosing and using adventurous adjectives. Miss Brookes and Mrs Harbor have been really pleased to see the quality of their sentence writing improve so much this half term. They all wrote fantastic recounts of our trip to the woods and park that happened at the beginning of January, and they are now enjoying storytelling in our 'Little Red Riding Hood' unit.

Our science focus for this half term has been plants. We have become more confident at identifying different plant types, naming their parts and closely observing leaves to decide whether they belong to deciduous or evergreen trees! We have been able to plant our own little flowerpots outside the classroom - come and take a look and let the children share their learning with you!

We have been very fortunate this half term to begin to learn playing the recorder with Mrs Papacosta. We have learnt how to play A and B and we are now using these notes to learn short songs. We do hope you are able to join us for our concert on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March!

Elsewhere in the curriculum we have learnt to program bee-bot robots, improved our co-ordination in PE with team building and net and wall games, thought about our aspirations, shared our dreams and goals and have had so much fun!

Have a fantastic break and we look forward to seeing you soon.



## Lavender Class - Mrs Bell, Mrs Weedon and Miss Akhtar

Year 2 have had a very busy but exciting half term! We started our term with a money unit in maths, which we enjoyed using coins and notes to support us. We practised counting in 2's, 5s and 10s, some of us are counting champions now! Then we got stuck into our Multiplication and Division unit. Year 2 have worked really hard and have enjoyed putting objects into groups and sharing objects into groups. We have learnt how to use the multiplication and division sign. How clever are we! In English, we enjoyed our building boy unit and have just completed amazing alternative endings to the story. We have tried hard to use Capital letters, finger spaces and full stops in every sentence. Some practise of writing using the above would be a great idea during half term! We enjoyed writing as part of our whole school independent write with the theme of Portals. We loved using our imagination and putting these ideas onto paper in form of great stories!

In Geography, we have enjoyed starting 'Our Wonderful World' unit. We loved starting our unit with a WOW day in school celebrating our diverse heritage and culture in Year 2! We have learnt that a continent is a large, solid, area of land. Ask your child to tell you what a continent is - they will be able to tell you! So far, we have learnt about Europe, North and South America as well as Antarctica. We can find these continents on the map and can describe the climate.

In Science we enjoyed learning about Living things and their Habitats. We used MRS GREN to support us to learn the 7 characteristics of living things. We investigated the micro habits at school and found out that under wood was the most popular micro habitat at Ivingswood.

In music we have enjoyed singing about the 5 Oceans which will help us when we learn about the 5 Oceans of the world in Geography. We have enjoyed creating rhythmic beat notations and performing them for our peers!

In PE, we have enjoyed being outdoors again. We have been learning about defending skills and improving on our hand-eye coordination. It has been tricky but Year 2 persevered! Well done Year 2! In Computing, we have thoroughly enjoyed programming, debugging and using our bee bots!

We look forward to continuing our learning during Spring 2! Have a wonderful and restful half term! We look forward to having you back!



## Rose Class - Mrs Liggins, Mrs Flynn, Miss Sample and Mrs Gomm

What a busy half term we have had in Year 3. We have delved in to Rocks and the Stone Age through our work in English, Science and History so far this year. We really enjoyed writing our own version of an explanation text based on 'The Street Beneath My Feet' in English and are now completing work on 'Stone Age Boy'. We have been using alliteration, similes, positive and negative language and repetition for effect in our writing along with many other techniques to engage our readers.

In science we have been exploring rocks and soils. We have identified different rocks and their properties. We investigated which rocks were permeable and which rocks were hard and which were softer. We enjoyed exploring the rocks to test the hardness and permeability of them.

In History we have been learning all about life in the Stone Age. I think we have decided that we would not have preferred to live during the Stone Age, having to hunt our own food, build our own houses and wear clothes made from animal skins.

In maths we continued with our multiplication and division work, practising our 2-, 3-, 4- and 8-times tables. Please keep working on these and the rest of the times tables. Don't forget to log in to Times Table Rockstars with your children. We are currently focussing on length and perimeter and have been having fun measuring items in the classroom. We have been using millimetres, centimetres and metres. One of the favourite and messiest activities we have undertaken this half term has been 'The Artist of the Month'. Our focus was Jackson Pollock and we have created work inspired by him. We can't wait to show our adults what we have produced. The classroom is currently like an art gallery.

In PE we have been developing our ball skills, working on dribbling and controlling different balls and being able to track them to catch or pass them. It has been tricky at times, especially when it has been so windy!

We have worked so hard this half term that we are most definitely in need of a half term rest. Have a wonderful half term break.



## Maple Class - Miss Daley, Ms Batten and Ms Perviaz.

Year 4 have been working hard on multiplication and division this half term. This was followed by length and perimeter, where we found we could use our times tables and division knowledge to solve problems.

In English, we enjoyed the wordless story Float, which was about a boy and his paper boat. We explored the use of rhetorical questions, repetition for effect, onomatopoeia, pathetic fallacy and expanded noun phrases, as well as other techniques. Snuggling down with dressing gowns and hot chocolate was a definite highlight! We then enjoyed writing our own version of the story.

As we head toward half term, we have started to look at a very different form of writing: a playscript. This is going to be set in the village of Eyam during the plague. So far, we have been interested to delve into the history of the village and discover how many families were impacted by the arrival of the plague.

During our Sound unit in Science, we explored volume and how distance affects sound. We also found out how the ear works and investigated the best material to use to make ear defenders. Some of our results were quite surprising! After a final lesson on pitch, we will be exploring electricity in our next unit.



## Cherry Class - Miss Knowler and Mrs Akhtar

What a start to 2024!

In the past month, Year 5 students have been actively engaged in our new Bean to Bar History and Geography lessons. The creativity and enthusiasm displayed during these projects have been truly inspiring. Our recent Artwork was a huge success! Students had the opportunity to design their own packaging for our rocky road themed chocolate bars. We discussed what makes attractive looking packaging and what would appeal to our children targeted audience. We are really looking forward to our DT project of making our bars in the latter half of next term!

Our current focus in Maths involves the relationship between decimals and fractions. We have learnt how to convert between the two concepts and using our arithmetic knowledge to help us with word problems. Students have been demonstrating a solid understanding of the material, and we're excited to see their continued growth. Miss Knowler is very proud of Year 5's ability to show great resilience and dedication to their Maths work, which shows how willing they are to grow their brains!

In English, we've been exploring the incredible true story of Captain Scott, an artic explorer who braved the -60 degrees weather to beat the Norwegians to the South Pole. Although unsuccessful, Year 5 discussed the purpose of his diaries and will apply this to our own diary entries for our independent write.

As a quick reminder, please remind your child that we have our school project due next half term and that homework sheets are given out every Friday to be returned the following Friday.

Have a restful half term and Miss Knowler looks forward to another great half term!



## Oak Class - Mrs Dunton and Miss Adams

We have managed to fit in quite a lot of learning in a short term and we look forward to next half term. It has been lovely to welcome Miss Adams to Year 6 this term and we thank her for all her support.

In maths we have covered ratio, algebra and are now working our way through decimals. Our home learning, with the CGP books, links to the lessons taking place each week, so it is important for the children to be complete the assigned pages to reinforce learning.

We have now completed our book Thornhill in the writing lessons and are now writing about a book called The Journey. As part of our lessons, we continue to work on becoming better writers by using a wide range of literacy devices.

This term we have started our curriculum lessons based around World War II, under the heading 'Blitzed.' In history, we were very impressed with the engagement from across the class, particularly when the children worked in groups to argue for or against appeasement.

In French the children have been learning the names of foods and drinks and are now building their vocabulary to order a range of foods from a cafe. It was interesting to find out that many foods have either the same or similar words in English.

The highlight of this term was when had two fantastic workshops with Will from The Art of Brilliance. In the morning, the children found out how to challenge and elevate their attitudes and behaviours, using positivity to be happier. In the afternoon the children had the opportunity to try and develop a skill and consider how they can link this into their own lives.



# 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.

## Staffing News

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Evans as a Learning Support Assistant to our EYFS team and Mrs Dalton as Family Support Worker.

Mrs Dalton will be at the gate each day, running breakfast club and working with our children in school. If you need to speak to her, please do catch her at the gate or call the office to arrange a meeting.



Mrs Dalton



Mrs Evans

My name is Stephanie Dalton and I'm very excited to be joining the team here at Ivingswood Academy, as the Family Support Worker. I'm a mum and step mum to both school age and adult children, with two grandchildren and one more on the way. My husband is the vicar at Christchurch Waterside and we've lived in Chesham now for just over 2 years.

It's been so lovely the past couple of weeks to get to know your wonderful children and to start to meet some of you. I'm on the gate most mornings and afternoons so please do come and say hello. Looking forward to getting to know you all.



# Other News

## Sports News

We have had a busy half term, having to fit in both the Boys football tournament and Tag Rugby. We thoroughly enjoyed both events and our rugby and football skills have improved greatly, particularly with the rugby and not passing the ball forwards. This half term years 1 & 2 have been having lots of fun working on their Team building skills and Net and wall games. Years 3 & 4 have been learning the basics for Tag rugby and Ball skills, getting ready to be able to compete in the Chilterns League. Years 5 & 6 have been developing and improving their football skills as well as Dance and Swimming, they have been making great progress with their swimming and have really impressed Miss Daley and I.

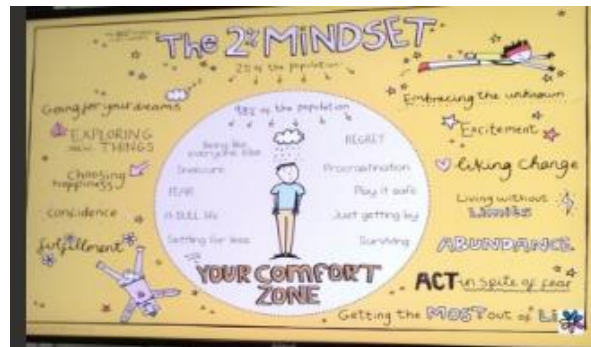


## Other News

### Art of Brilliance

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 had the fantastic opportunity to take part in workshops last week run by Will from Happy Schools. The children were asked about how positive they were and also what they think about how they approach tasks that are challenging. All the children had a great time thinking about themselves and also trying new skills such as rubix cubes and stacking cups.

All the staff at Ivingswood had training in 'The Art of Brilliance' in one of our October INSET days with Will, and we are excited to see how our children use their skills and positive outlooks as they continue their learning journeys.



### PTA News

Back by popular demand...the school disco. Save the date. More information on how to book tickets after half-term.



Chocolate raffle! Who would like to win this chocolate bunny? If yes, look out for our PTA selling raffle tickets for your chance to win.



## **Charity Fundraising**

We had a colourful time raising money for LoveLowndes a few weeks ago. The children wore their home clothes for a donation to help the charity to improve the play-area of the local park. LoveLowndes loved our playground designs and have asked if they can use some in their promotional material.



## **Linking School Project** **Year 3**

Year 3 are taking part in the Linking School Project. This is a national initiative where schools 'link' together to get to know each other, share some experiences and then plan a get together. Our first task was to create some bunting all about ourselves and send it off to our 'link school.' We have been paired with St Paul's school in Wooburn Green. We loved creating the bunting and were thrilled to receive some from them back – it is displayed in our classroom. We then create pupil profiles about ourselves and sent them off – we are awaiting return ones from our new friends. Now our teachers have met, they are planning a video call and then a visit with our 'new friends.'



Our bunting



Mrs Flynn and Mrs Burgess

## 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 stickers as they have been in school everyday of this half-term – badges are awarded at the end of each 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. 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.

## Communication Survey

Thank you very much for completing the communication survey conducted by our LAC in response to our annual parental survey in November. I am pleased that so many of you are happy with the communication that we do offer and we will carefully consider some of the suggestions that were made.

In response to suggestions, we now have enlarged copies of our diary dates on the noticeboards on the playground for parents to keep up-to-date. As a school, we do try hard to keep our dates that we set in September for our planned activities, however, there are 'new' dates added and also unfortunately, sometimes things do get changed or canceled. Using the Teachers2Parents app, we then send out reminders the week/ few days before events such as art exhibitions or class assemblies as we know how busy family life is and text reminder is helpful! Sometimes, cancelations and short notice texts/ emails are a response to things outside of the school's control which is unavoidable such as weather or staff shortages. I am exploring the possibility of parents linking their calendars with our school calendar on our website, so will be in touch about that when possible. At Parents' evening (19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Feb) some LAC members will be available to speak with and will share our social media account details with you.

## Wrap around care / After school club

We had some positive responses to our parent/ carer survey about Ivingswood Academy having a paid after-school club. We are currently looking at possible ways to staff the club and make it a viable option for the school. We have also contacted external providers to see if they would be interested in running their club at our site. We will update you when we have further news.

## Exciting project...Fresh Air Fitness

I am sure you have heard from your child/children about our exciting January Outdoor Fitness project. In our December addition, I told you that something was happening to this area in school, so I am delighted to share with you that we now have an outdoor fitness area for the children and staff to use at lunchtimes. Sharing the news with the children was such a delight. It was very difficult to keep it a secret from the children! Everyone has had a great time playing on it and it has been a popular place to visit. Unfortunately, the weather has been a bit rubbish, so we have not been able to use it every day. We look forward to the Spring weather!



### **Parents Evening 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

After half-term, you will receive notification on how to book your appointment for parents' evening. This is an opportunity to see your child's books, discuss their progress and understand how you can support them further at home.

## Keeping Safe Week 5-9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

This week we held our annual Keeping Safe Week. Each child has taken part in a number of safety workshops including: personal safety, stranger danger, road safety, food hygiene, internet safety and water safety.

We are living our school rules of being safe by teaching the children that they can keep themselves safe, make good choices and to understand that unsafe choices often effect other people in a negative way.

Please spend some time discussing with your child what they have learnt and answer any questions they may have.

Useful websites for parents on safety including internet safety are:

- NSPCC - [Donate to Charity Online](#) | [Give to NSPCC today](#) | [NSPCC](#)
- Safer Internet [Parents and Carers](#) - [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- CEOP - [Parents and carers](#) | [CEOP Education \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](#)

Thank you to all the parents, carers and family members who came into school today to see the learning from this week and sharing it with our children. We do love having visitors to our classes.



## **New House Logos** **Air, Water, Fire and Earth**

In my last newsletter we launched the 'new' names for our houses which were decided by our school council members. Last term we set the 'Design a Logo' competition for every child to take part in.

Here are the winning designs – aren't they great? The children have worked very hard on them and it was tough to judge them. Teachers, support staff, visitors and children were able to cast their vote and I'm sure you will agree that they are fabulous. We have a design student (Miss Dunton) working on a project on creating the logos so that we can use them across the school.

Congratulations to Aadil, Bailey, Mahibah and Ibrahim.



### **KS1 Fundraising Week**

A huge heartfelt thank you to all of those who supported our KS1 fundraising week by sending your child to our movie night, buying something from our food sale, taking part in our competitions and donating your time or delicious food! Congratulations to our big winners of the Roald Dahl raffle and guess the name of the squishmallow competition. We are thrilled to have raised over £300, which we could not have done without our incredible Ivingswood community. The funds raised will be used to reduce the cost of upcoming trips and give the children some other fantastic learning experiences. On behalf of Bluebell and Lavender classes, thank you, thank you, thank you!



# Information Board

## Upcoming Events

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