

Volume 4: March 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.



Spring has sprung!

What an amazing half-term this has been.

It was great to welcome so many of you into school this term for a number of reasons including our parenting courses, cookery classes, first aid workshops, art exhibitions, music concerts, class assemblies, stay and play sessions, parent lunches and reading workshops. The children and staff love to share the learning that is taking place with parents and carers, so thank you for your continued support.

Today you should have received a letter regarding our school trip with Year 1 to Year 6 in June. We are so excited to take everyone to London to bring our learning to life by visiting some fantastic places.

If you are not receiving regular communications from us, please come and check your details with the school office.

Have a relaxing Easter break, Eid Mubarak to our Islamic families and see you all on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April at 8.45am.

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

The theme for Nursery this term has been Come Outside, and we have been outside a lot, in all weathers, rain or shine, wind or drizzle! The mud kitchen has been developed and children are loving mixing up potions, adding their own special ingredients and generally making a lovely muddy mess! We have been on a nature walk to find signs of spring and collect some sticks for our Mud Kitchen.

We grew some cress from seeds. We cut it up and ate our cress with bread and butter, it was delicious.

All children have been building their fine motor skills and working really hard on their listening and attention, playing lots of listening games to identify various sounds. We have loved using masks to act out our stories and rhymes each week.

We explored collage this term and used Kadinsky as our inspiration. Next term we are looking forward to our theme of 'Out Of This World, exploring up in space and under the sea.'





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

Reception have really enjoyed learning about our topic of Growing in this second half of the Spring Term. We have been learning all about plants and what they need to grow and how we can care for them. The children have been growing bean seeds in cotton wool and water in clear bags on our windows, so that we could see the roots and the shoots emerge from the bean seed. We have also been planting seeds in soil, which we will soon be sending home so the children can continue to use all the skills they have learnt to support their young plants to grow. However, our favourite growing project has been the frogspawn! We have been able to watch our frogspawn change into tadpoles and we have created special frog booklets to record all the important stages in the life-cycle of a frog. We have released the tadpoles back into the pond in the environmental area so we don't return after Easter to a classroom full of baby frogs hopping about the place!

This term we have been learning about how to keep our minds and bodies healthy by eating and drinking the right foods and getting plenty of rest. We also enjoyed joining Key Stage 1 for special activities on keeping safe in an emergency, road safety and stranger safety. We also joined them for Wellbeing Wednesday, when we tried different activities to help us relax. Learning these skills will help at times when we might feel worried or overwhelmed by how we are feeling. The children have also learn rainbow breathing so please ask them to teach you this to help you to relax too! World Book Day and our Tiger Who Came To Breakfast morning were also two of our highlights from this half-term.

The children have continued to make great progress with working with numbers to 10 and knowing which smaller numbers combine together to make bigger numbers. We have also been learning about doubles and 3D shapes so please help your child spot 3D shapes and doubles in their home environment .Reception continue to work hard on developing their reading and writing skills. Please help your child by reading with them at home and encouraging them to write short sentences whenever the opportunity presents itself!

We hope you all have a lovely Easter break and enjoy the holidays. We also wish all our Muslim families Eid Mubarak for the Eid celebrations during this holiday.



## Bluebell Class - Miss Brookes and Mrs Harbor

What a busy half term we have had in Bluebell Class! Miss Brookes has been so proud of everyone for rising to the challenges we have had in our curriculum this term, particularly with maths, where we have been working with numbers to 50 and learning to measure length, height, mass and volume. Next term, we will be increasing our number knowledge to 100 so Miss Brookes will be looking to see who can do the most Numbots over the break!

In English we enjoyed retelling a classic fairytale with a twist in our 'Little Purple Riding Hood' story. We have also enjoyed exploring different word types and applying these into our 'dreams' writing to go alongside our BFG inspired dream jars that we created in art.

In history we have continued to learn about Roald Dahl and the children were able to really impress the staff on our trip to the Roald Dahl Children's Gallery with our knowledge of Dahl and his stories.

Another highlight of our term has definitely been learning to play the recorder with Mrs Papacosta. We got to learn 3 notes because we were naturals! We can't wait to play them again when we are in Year 2.

Finally, a huge thank you to all the parents that were able to attend our class assembly and our music concert. We worked so hard to prepare these and loved the opportunity to share our learning!

Have a wonderful break, Miss Brookes and Mrs Harbor look forward to welcoming you back next term!





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

Year 2 have had a very busy term. We have been practicing lots of arithmetic, reasoning and comprehensions to be ready for our upcoming SATS next term. We have just had our assessment week and the children were absolute superstars and gave every test we did their best! We are very proud of you, Year 2!

Our Geography unit was on our Wonderful World. Year 2 loved learning about the seven continents and five oceans. We created our mastery milestones in our Geography books and the children explained the climate of the different areas in the world, so well! We also had an Art unit based on Jean Arp who was a famous abstract sculptor. The children enjoyed designing and creating their own sculptures.

In Science we have loved learning about Animals including humans. We have enjoyed learning about lifecycles, the basic needs, healthy eating and the importance of exercise. We have loved watching our caterpillars grow and form into chrysalises. We are hoping they become butterflies before we go on the Easter break!

Our Jigsaw has linked with our science and computing! We have enjoyed learning about healthy me. We have learnt about a healthy balanced diet and what is sometimes food and always food. We enjoyed creating a pictograph during computing to show our class's favourite fruit.

In English, we loved learning about and writing about Habitats. The children wrote amazing non-chronological reports about the pond habitat. We had so much fun on World Book Day and loved getting to read a little bit more than usual on this day!

We wish you a wonderful Easter Break and look forward to having you back for the Summer Term.



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

As always, we have been working very hard in Year 3 and our efforts are really showing in our work. I'd like to take this opportunity to say a big 'well done' to all of Year 3 for working so hard this week to complete their assessments. It's never easy, but you have done so well.

In History, we have continued our work on Prehistory, learning all about the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. We became history detectives, using evidence found to come up with our own theories as to what life was like during these times and comparing them to our life now. We also looked at how the Stone Age people expressed themselves through art on their cave walls. We had the chance to be Prehistoric artists as well. We created our own cave paintings (although on paper, not cave walls) using oil pastels and chalks. We had a great time doing these and were very creative drawing the animals and people, similar to those found from thousands of years ago.

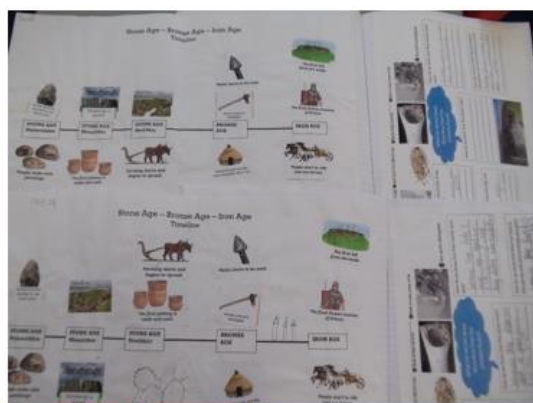
We continued the Stone Age theme in our English work, when we wrote our own version of 'The Stone Age Boy'. Using all our knowledge from our history lessons, we wrote a story about finding ourselves in the Stone Age and experiencing life as it was then. Some great stories were written, well done everyone. We have also just finished a unit on poetry and wrote some amazing poems called 'I asked a little boy who cannot see', where we had to describe what colour was like. We also had great fun on World Book Day, dressing up and participating in Round Robin activities in our Houses teams.

In maths, we are currently learning all about mass and capacity having completed our work on fractions. We will continue mass and capacity after Easter. If you get the opportunity to do some baking or cooking together, this would be a great opportunity for practical application of weighing and measuring.

We finished our unit of work on 'Rocks and Soil' in science, looking at different types of rocks, identifying their properties and uses, comparing different soils and finding out how fossils are created. We are now ready to start our new unit of 'Plants' next term. We enjoyed our Round Robin activities for Science Week, where we learnt about our brains and animal lifecycles.

In PE this term we have been developing our teamwork in Outdoor and Adventurous Activities (OAA) unit. We have played games, solved problems and worked together, very effectively, as a team. Well done Year 3.

I wish you all a happy and healthy Easter holiday and look forward to all the exciting things we have lined up for the summer term.





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

This half term has seen some rather interesting scenes taking place in the Year 4 classroom, including a plague victim shivering in the corner and an exploration of old-fashioned remedies, as we explored play scripts in our English sessions. It was strange to write dialogue without constantly being told to 'check the inverted commas are in the correct place'! We became very skilled at writing stage directions inside parentheses (brackets) and completed the unit by writing our own playscript about what happened next in the village of Eyam.

Within Maths, we developed our understanding of fractions and decimals, which we shall continue to explore after Easter. As Ms Batten and Miss Daley continue to remind the whole class, the Year 4 times table check takes place in the summer term, so please practise your times tables at home. You can also log on to Times Table Rockstars to further improve your speed and accuracy.

Having completed our work on 'Sound', Year 4 have embraced the Science unit 'Electricity' with much enthusiasm; constructing, improving and fixing circuits, exploring switches as well as insulators and conductors, before the final challenge of making a working torch. After the Easter break, we will be looking at Animals, including humans.

We enjoyed the Round Robin activities of World Book Day and Science week, as well as the chance for some of the children to carry out science-based tasks with their parents; our thanks to Mrs Dalton for organising this. If ever you want some science activities to do at home, ask Miss Daley.

Over the last few weeks, we have been finding out about our Artist of the Half Term, Yayoi Kusama. She covers everything in dots! We have also learnt about Andy Goldsworthy's land art and have tried to produce our own. The land art was linked to our Geography work, where we have discovered interesting facts about earthquakes, flooding and volcanoes.

Next term, the children begin their swimming lessons. Miss Daley, Mrs Liggins and Mrs Beulah will be with them at the pool, but if you have any concerns or queries, please do speak to one of us. A separate letter will be sent out with more information. Hope you all have a fun-filled Easter break!



## Cherry Class - Miss Knowler and Mrs Akhtar

Our Year 5 students continue to excel academically, demonstrating a strong commitment to their studies across all subjects. From mathematics to our deep dive into the Maya civilisation, their dedication to learning is truly commendable. I am proud of the progress they have made and the enthusiasm they bring to the classroom every day.

Our writing lessons have gone from strength to strength as the children have written a diary entry based off the true story of Captain Robert Falcon Scott, who pioneered the first trek to the South Pole. We discussed how even though his mission failed, there were many lessons learned on how others such as the most recent, Polar Preet managed to break the world record. We then took on our greatest challenge with composing a balanced argument around the tough subject of how screen time affects children's wellbeing. We found that unlimited tech leads to a plethora of issues including mood swings, headaches and delay in language development.

We have really enjoyed learning about the Maya Civilisation and ultimately, how our favourite luxury food of chocolate came to fruition! We have enjoyed designing our very own chocolate bars and putting thought to what makes packaging marketable. Creativity knows no bounds in Year 5! As we have been engaging in various artistic and creative projects, from painting to baking, to drama to showcase our knowledge of the Maya.

Our highlights of the term, however, have been of course swimming and learning to play the Ukelele. Thank you to all the adults who came to see us play! Miss Knowler was very impressed!

Have a safe and restful holiday and Miss Knowler will see you in the Summer Term!





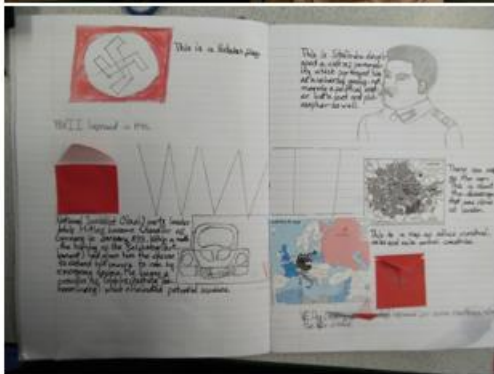
## Oak Class - Mrs Dunton and Miss Adams

Over the course of this term, we have been building knowledge about World War II through our history, geography, reading and writing lessons. This has allowed the children to further secure key information relating to the events but also the impact it had on people in the UK and around the world. The writing lessons have been focused on two pieces of texts, the first was 'The Journey', this was about the lives of a family who had to leave their home as refugees. The second text was called 'Letters from the Lighthouse'; this text explored the lives of children being evacuated from London to Devon. The class were able to make comparisons between these books as well as our class novel 'Goodnight Mr Tom.'

As we come to the end of this term, we have now completed our Mastery Milestone lesson. This is the opportunity to demonstrate how much they have learnt about World War II in the form of a double page spread. The children have also had the opportunity to do this for our science learning about Evolution and Inheritance. The science lessons this term have sparked some interesting debate about the future of human evolution.

We continue to work steadily through the maths units, this term we have covered fractions, decimals, percentages, area, perimeter as well as statistics and reinforcing this through the home learning and though additional maths lessons.

It has been great fun to have World Book Day and Science Day as well this term, the children are also working on being role models in their positions as Mind Mentors and Reading Mentors. We look forward to all that comes with the Summer Term.





# Other News

## Ivingswood Outdoor Learning Project

We are delighted to share the news that Ivingswood is developing some of their land into an outdoor learning space. Funding has been supported by The Opportunity Bucks Programme run through Buckinghamshire County Council. This is going to be a fantastic opportunity for all our pupils to get involved in. Some children have already had the chance to start helping with the project including using saws, building paths, creating a hedgehog hotel and clearing rubbish. We are making a video of the progress of the project and further photos are available on our social media pages. We aim for each class to use the area this summer term with a full programme of use from the autumn term.





# Other News

## Sports News

We have had a busy half term and children from yr 1 – 6 took part in our first 'Brilliant Me' challenge. This challenge was about beating their own score and improving their own performance, different year groups completed different challenges such as how many star jumps can you do in 2mins or laps of the field in 4 minutes. Each year group completed the same challenges over a three-week period then recorded their personal best. The children tried really hard to improve their scores week on week.

This term years 5 & 6 have been working on their fitness, completing a range of different exercises and thinking about how we feel after exercise and why it is good for us. Years 3 and 4 have been doing yoga working hard on balancing and seeing how long we can hold our poses for and how we can flow from one pose to another. Year 1 and 2 have been working on their striking and fielding and learning different ways to pass a ball and how to attack and defend.

We have also competed in the Girls football Chilterns league and the team have had great fun developing their football skills as well as working well as a team playing against other schools, we received some great feedback from the other school about our team and their ability. We have also been lucky enough to have Amber Strevens from Wycombe Wanderers come into school and give us a few training sessions which were fantastic and great fun.



# Other News

## PTA News

The PTA has had a busy few weeks! We ran our Easter Bunny raffle raising £150 for the school! We also held our Spring Disco, which raised £320!!

This term we have funded our Year 6 leavers hoodies, and our school council held a meeting to decide what to spend the money on to help improve our play equipment.

Our next event is the Summer Fayre which will be held on the 22nd June. We've got some great raffle prizes collected, we hope you'll join us for another fantastic event!

We are also taking part in the Schools of Chesham carnival on the 8th June - information to follow.

As always, thank you for your support!

If you want to get involved with the PTA, please email [PTA@ivingswoodacademy.org](mailto:PTA@ivingswoodacademy.org)



## Mental Health Ambassadors



18 of our Year 5 and Year 6 children have been trained by Huw from Buckinghamshire Mind to be mental health ambassadors. This means they are available during lunchtime for our pupils to talk to if they need it. Mrs Dalton, our Family Support Worker, works closely with the group and helps with the work schedule. The sessions have been well attended and Huw commented on how knowledgeable our children were during their training.



# 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 92%. 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. Some families will be contacted by Buckinghamshire Council to attend Parent Contract Meetings (PCMs) to discuss the lack of improvement in attendance over the last two terms.

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

## Wild About Well-Being

Over the last six weeks we have been lucky enough to have a group of adults from Buckinghamshire Mental Health Team working with some of our Year 6 pupils in a group called, Wild About Well-Being. Despite the terrible weather, they have all had the best time making shelters, having toasted marshmallows and using their imagination to have fun.



## Community Events

Chesham Cricket Club

# Free taster sessions for girls' cricket

## Join the Dynamos!

We are offering two free taster sessions for girls in years 3 to 6 to try soft ball cricket. Suitable for complete beginners or cricket addicts. No special equipment needed. Mums and over 14s can test their skills with women's soft ball at the same time and place.

**Where:** Chesham Cricket Club, Amy Lane, HP5 1NE  
**When:** Sunday 28 April and 5 May | 10.30 to 12.00

**Contact us to book your place:**  
[john.holloway@zingmagic.com](mailto:john.holloway@zingmagic.com)



Find out more at [chesham.hitscricket.com](http://chesham.hitscricket.com)

## Plea for help

During our lunchtimes, we have many different 'zones' to play in. However, we are in need of a few more resources. If you are having a clear out over the Easter holidays, please can we have any spare dressing up clothes (particularly for older children), plastic kitchen equipment (such as bowls, spoons, jugs, cups) and any good quality books that you no longer need in your home. Please bring your donations into school and give them to the school office. Thank you in advance for your help with these items.



# Information Board

## Upcoming Events

### Summer Term

Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	Summer Term starts 8.45am
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Eid Celebration.
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 4 Class Assembly 9am
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Maths and Money Monday
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Year 3 Class Assembly 9am
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank holiday
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May - Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATS week
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 5 Art Exhibition 2.30pm
Monday 20-Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	KS1 SATS
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 5 Class Assembly
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Half term
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Chesham Carnival
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 2 Class assembly 9am
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Reception Class Assembly 9am
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Music Performance Year 2 and Year 6 2.30pm
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June – Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Year 6 Isle of Wight trip
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Assessment Week
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Transition Day
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Reports out
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	School Closed INSET DAY
WB 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Week
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports 4 Champions Workshop
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day Morning, whole school picnic and open afternoon
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Art Exhibition 2.30pm
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly 9am End of term – Finish 1.15pm