

Volume 3: February 2025

# 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.



Year 4 enjoyed wearing their home clothes today to support Love Lowndes Park charity. Thank you for all the donations that were made today.

As ever, we have had a super busy half-term! Thank you to all the parents and carers who came today to share in our learning about 'Keeping Safe.' The children love to share what they have learnt with you all – and so do we!

Next term we are looking forward to our World Book Day activities and our reading focus. Mrs Bell sent a letter home today about what we have planned. Please make sure you make time to hear your child read over the holiday and share stories with them. You could even visit Chesham library.

Hopefully the sunshine will stay, so we can get out and about and enjoy the fresh air this half-term break. Have a good rest and I look forward to seeing you all on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February.

Mrs C Flynn

Head of School

## Catkin Class - Miss Rose, Mrs Woolnough and Mrs Zain

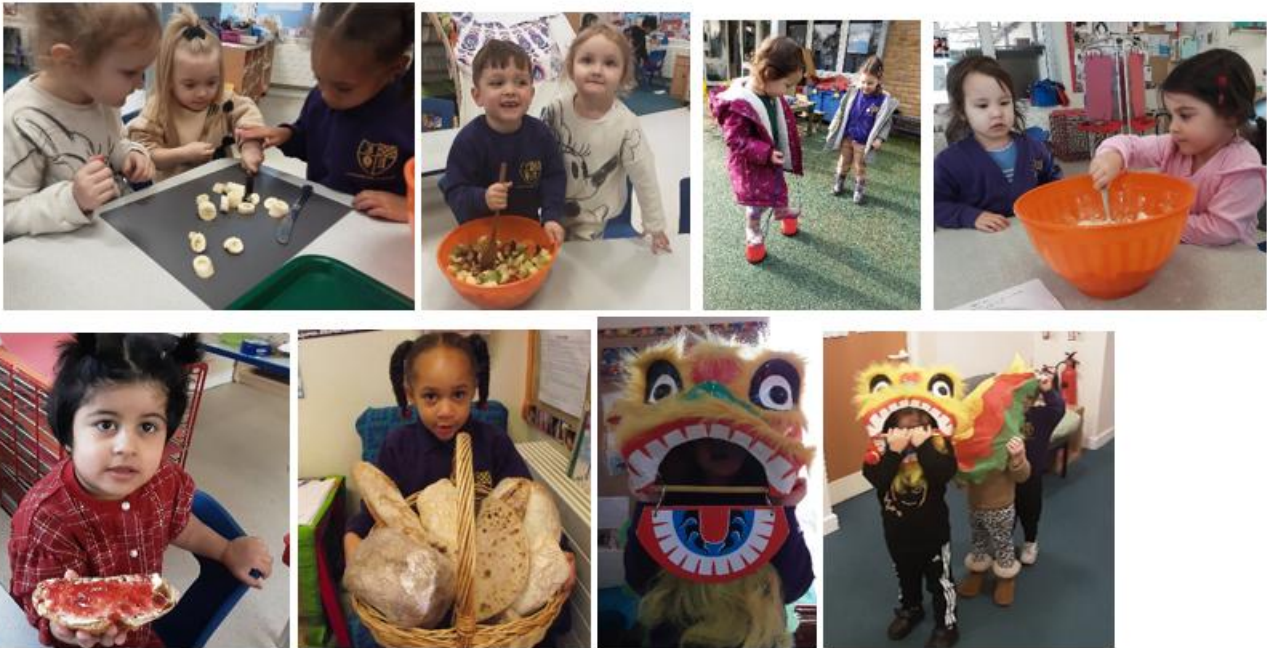
Nursery have had a great term, enjoying the cold weather and experimenting and playing with ice. We have learned some interesting polar animal facts... Penguins cry through their nose, wolverines are weasels, seals can swim faster than a polar bear, a walrus can hold its breath for 30 minutes and a killer whale is from the dolphin family. But best of all... penguins poo every 20 minutes!

We have continued to learn a new rhyme and sign each week, our favourite rhyme was *Jelly on a Plate* and our most popular Makaton sign was *bad*. We tried lots of different types of bread and made our own bread rolls and a delicious fruit salad.

We celebrated Luna New Year with our own dragon dance and some prawn crackers, children were very interested to learn some Chinese and enjoyed making some *year of the snake* arts and crafts.

We are building our balance and coordination in PE and are working really hard on our fine motor skills, especially those used to manage dressing and fastening coats and shoes.

Nursery children continue to show their maturity and independence, knowing (and following) our class rules, being responsible for their own *Tidy Up Area*, taking care of each other and being especially kind and helpful with our new Hoglets. We are really proud of them and can't wait to explore more new and exciting things with them next term.



Get money towards healthy food and milk with Healthy Start. If you're pregnant or have a child under the age of 4, you could get payments to spend on fruit, vegetables, pulses, milk and baby formula, giving you that extra boost to keep you and your growing family healthy. Find out more at

[https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/campaign/healthy-start/?dm\\_i=5438,16GMR,5R37IV,4TUWG,1](https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/campaign/healthy-start/?dm_i=5438,16GMR,5R37IV,4TUWG,1)



## Snowdrop – Miss Hawes, Miss Hayes, Miss Pervaiz, Mrs King, Miss Sample and Mrs Evans

Snowdrops have been busy this half term! We went on our second school trip of the academic year to Hope Church. The children were super excited, and Miss Hawes was incredibly proud of us all! We walked beautifully, listened to all the adults when it came to crossing the roads safely and represented Ivingswood so well they want us to return for another visit 😊

In Writing this half term we have been looking at 3 key texts - The Catch, Noah's Ark and Dragons in the City. The children have worked hard at identifying the characters in the story and how they are feeling. Alongside this, the children have learnt many skills this half term including writing in speech bubbles and labelling. Snowdrops are becoming more independent writers by using their Fred talk, well done Snowdrops, keep it up!

Snowdrops are enjoying their daily phonics lessons and working exceptionally hard at blending. They are enjoying the Fred games which you can watch at home too by scanning the QR codes given to you earlier on in the year, if you would like another copy – please let me know!

In maths, we have been looking at number 6,7,8 and mass. Snowdrops are working hard at subitising and are becoming super speedy when showing me the number of fingers I ask them! Sometimes in maths we have focus texts, one of our texts was Handa's surprise. The children thoroughly enjoyed helping Handa collect all her fruit. They were able to read the numbers 6,7 and 8 and correctly count the pieces of fruit.

In our "Understanding of the World" lessons, Snowdrops have been looking at Houses and Homes both in Chesham and around the world. We have learnt about many types of houses including detached, semi-detached, cottages, terraced, flats, caravans and canal boats! The children were fascinated that there were so many types of homes and not just the ones they lived in. To extend our knowledge further, we looked at homes around the world; the mud hut was their favourite. In one of our lessons, we made our own replica of type of house from around the world.

Thank you for another super half term, Snowdrops, I am excited for the next. Have a happy and restful half term.



## Bluebell - Miss Hawes, Miss Hayes, Miss Pervaiz, Mrs King, Miss Sample and Mrs Evans

Bluebells, where did that half term go! We have been very busy but have worked incredibly hard - you should all be proud of yourselves as I certainly am of you. This half term, we went on our second school trip of the academic year to Hope Church. The children were super excited, and Miss Hawes was incredibly proud of us all! We walked beautifully, listened to all the adults when it came to crossing the roads safely and represented Ivingswood so well they want us to return for another visit 😊

In Writing this half term we have been looking at 3 key texts - The Catch, Noah's Ark and Dragons in the city. We have been working hard to perfect our sentence writing and have learnt many skills to support this. This half term, Bluebells have learnt to use conjunctions, write in either 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> person and have perfected their knowledge on adjectives. The children have blown me away with their writing, they have not only learnt all those new skills but their love for writing has increased. The children are taking on board the comments I have made to support their work further and are able to correct their own mistakes. Well done, Bluebells -keep it up!

In maths this half term, we have been looking at place value and addition and subtraction within 20. We have used many manipulatives this half term to support our learning such as tens frames, number lines, part whole models and counting cubes! The children are now able to identify what they need to support them further and it is lovely to see them independently accessing these in the classroom.

"Whizzpoppers" is our history focus this term, and I can confidently say Bluebells are LOVING this! We are focusing on all things Roald Dahl. So far, we have learnt that Roald Dahl was an author who wrote many famous books including James and the Giant Peach (which was his first book). We learnt that he was a member of the RAF but sadly had a plane crash during WWII which left him in hospital for 6 months. We also learnt what influenced Roald Dahl into writing his books. We are continuing this focus after half term and linking this to our art lessons, where the children will be designing and making their own dream jars from the book, The BFG.

In PE, we have been developing our gymnastic skills. We have loved having Premier Education teach our lessons and cannot wait to see what we will be learning about in Spring 2.

Thank you for a super half term, Bluebells - keep up the amazing work. Have a happy and healthy half term and I look forward to seeing you in Spring 2!





## Lavender Class - Mrs Bell and Miss Akhtar

Year 2 have had a jam packed half term! We have done so much learning and loved every minute of it!

In maths we started off learning about money, where we enjoyed using coins to support us to find change. This consolidated our learning we completed in our addition and subtraction unit last term. We are really enjoying grouping and sharing during our Multiplication and Division unit. The class were so excited when we introduced them to their 2x tables! We look forward to learning our 5x and 10x tables soon!

In our writing lessons we started off with a narrative about the Building Boy, where we enjoyed creating a continuation of the story. The children enjoyed using expanded noun phrases and all the Year 2 punctuation expectations! We finished off the half term learning about information texts. We enjoyed learning about the features of the text and how the sub-headings and paragraphs of information need to link. We really enjoyed writing our information text on habitats which consolidated our learning from science.

During science, we have really enjoyed our outdoor learning to explore the different habitats and microhabitats we have at Ivingwood. We have enjoyed using "MRS GREN" to support us to remember what makes something living or non-living.

During geography, we have enjoyed exploring the world! We started off our learning about our heritage and where we are from in the world. We have been looking at the 7 continents, the climate there and what they have to offer! We have covered 5 out of the 7 continents so far! We look forward to continuing this learning in Spring 2. Ask your child what a continent is, they'll enjoy sharing their knowledge.

In music we've been singing about the 5 Great Oceans. We have learnt 4 notes and how we can use them to make music. We have enjoyed creating our own rhythm. During our computing lessons we've been very busy creating algorithms for our Bee Bots. This is always so much fun!

Thank you to all the parents who read with their children every day. We ask that you continue to read with your child daily as well as record it in their reading record. Please remember to allow time for your child to practise their weekly spelling words and to complete their maths homework.

We wish you a good rest during half term and we look for more exciting learning in Spring 2!



## Rose Class - Mrs Liggins, Mrs Gomm and Mrs Dunning

What a half term we have had! Year 3 have not stopped since we started back in January. In English, we have written our own narratives, based on 'The Secret of Black Rock', which we all thoroughly enjoyed. So many great stories written using amazing descriptive language, such as similes and expanded noun phrases.

In maths, we continued our work on multiplication and division, multiplying and dividing 2-digit numbers by one-digit numbers. We have practised our times tables throughout this and it is so important to keep this up at home. Please log in to TT Rockstars regularly with your child. We are now working on length and perimeter, thinking about millimetres, centimetres and metres, being able to compare lengths and calculate perimeters.

In science, the children have been learning about rocks. They have identified the different types, igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks, as well as testing the rocks for permeability and finding out which are the hardest and softest rocks. They even had the opportunity to handle and examine fossils.

In history, we have begun learning about life in The Stone Age and comparing it to our lives now. How different life was back then. We are looking forward to finding out more and learning about how life changed in the Bronze and Iron Ages.

Our 'Artist of the Half Term' is Keith Haring, and we have been busy preparing for our art exhibition on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 2.30pm. The children have used Keith's work as inspiration for their own artwork and are very excited to show everyone.

In PE, the children have been working hard on their fitness and their netball skills. Keep up the good work Year 3.





## Maple Class - Miss Daley, Ms Batten and Mrs Aktar

What a busy half term!

Since Christmas, we have completed fiction, non-fiction writing and poetry in our English work and are working hard to improve our presentation. Some of us are now very close to achieving the much-coveted Pen Licence!

In maths, we have been working on multiplication and division, finding the perimeter of irregular and regular polygons and are now beginning our work on fractions.

In our geography lessons, we are learning all about volcanoes, earthquakes and floods and the reasons that they occur. We particularly enjoyed our "hook" lesson, where we found out about tectonic plates using satsumas and jam!

We have also been working with Sam from The Country Trust, who taught us how to make a very tasty minestrone soup. We are looking forward to further lessons with Sam in the coming weeks, learning about how our food grows and where it comes from!

In the wider curriculum, we have begun learning to play the recorder and to programme an on-screen "turtle" using "Logo" on the computers.

Parents, please remember that it is vital that you hear your child regularly at home, check that they complete their homework neatly (issued every Friday) and help them to learn their times tables (we have our Times Tables Test in the summer term!) Many thanks!



## Cherry Class - Miss Race and Mrs Weedon

Year 5 have had an incredibly busy half term! In Maths, we have been doing our second fractions unit! We have learnt about multiplying fractions by whole numbers, finding a fraction of a quantity and even using fractions as operators. We also loved our Money Madness Week! We looked at how to work out how much change we might need when buying something in a shop, talked about budgeting and even looked at what bank statements and payslips look like!

During our history lessons, we have started work on the Maya Civilisation. We have learnt about the link between the Maya and chocolate (they used to drink it and even added chilli!). We have learnt about the history of chocolate and started looking at where the Maya used to live and why! We have enjoyed doing some geography as well during this topic, developing our map skills by being able to locate different places and use the atlas to help us identify key geographical features, like mountains and rivers.

We have enjoyed writing this half term! First, we wrote autobiographies about our lives (so far!) and then we moved on to writing a narrative based on the book Gorilla by Anthony Browne.

In Music, we have loved developing our Ukulele Skills and are very excited for our performance on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April. We have also loved our Physical Computing Unit in ICT – allowing us to experiment with circuits and coding! Finally, we have begun our properties and changing materials topic in science and have investigated which materials are the best thermal insulators, which materials are electrical conductors and what impacts the rate of dissolving!

We look forward to carrying on with our learning after Half Term! 😊





# Oak Class - Mrs Rowley, Miss Sample and Miss Perviaz

What a busy start to 2025 Year 6 have had. We have filled our weeks with lots of learning and the children have worked really hard to improve their knowledge.

In Maths, we have been learning about ratio, algebra and decimals. Mrs Rowley was amazed at how well everyone progressed in their understanding of algebra even though a lot of us were afraid of it when we started. A really important thing that Year 6 are learning is not to let Maths anxiety get the better of us and that we can use what we already know to work out things we don't know. We also realised that we have been doing algebra since we were in Year 1 just with a different name! (but shhh don't tell anyone!)

In English, we wrote explanation texts about the circulatory system and how the heart works. We used our knowledge that we learnt about the heart in the Autumn term and produced great work showing how the circulatory system works in humans. We then went on to look at a video called Beyond the Lines about a soldier from the Second World War. Using our understanding from History, we then wrote diary entries and used emotive language to show how the soldiers would have felt at the DDay landings.

We are learning about World War 2 in History and enjoyed recreating the trenches of the First World War to help us understand how World War 2 started and the reason behind it. We have learnt a lot about what life was like for people at home during the war and what happened when children were evacuated. We are looking forward to our Make Do and Mend DT next half term which helped with the war effort.

In Science we have learnt about Evolution and Inheritance. We have been looking at how animals adapt to their environment through evolving over time. We hid lots of camouflaged butterflies around the classroom and Mrs Rowley had to see if she could find them all; she really struggled because we hid them so well!



# 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 by Thursday for the next week. If you do not book lunch, your child cannot be fed.



Remember that we are a nut-free school. We have some children and staff with severe allergies. No nuts or any nut products such as Nutella are allowed in school. We appreciate your understanding in this important matter.



## Presentation Matters

This half term we had a focus on the presentation of our work. Children had time to look at our presentation policy in assembly and understood that they need to try their best handwriting and sticking sheets in for every lesson. The children were given time to look at their books and decide what they needed to improve on. Each week, Mrs Flynn chooses a selection of children to come and 'chit-chat' about their learning and we look at the presentation of their work. Mrs Dunning and School Council meet weekly and again look at the presentation of work across different subject areas.

Please support your child when working together on home learning, that it is completed with a pencil or pen as appropriate and is kept neatly folded and their neatest handwriting used.

Presentation of work will continue to be a focus next half-term.

## Sporting News

This half term has seen Ivingswood compete in The Chilterns League tag rugby inter-school competition. We have already played Waterside, Our Lady's and Hawridge and Cholesbury schools. The children have been nervous, especially when some of the team have only played tag rugby in class, but they have done themselves proud. The children have demonstrated some fabulous teamwork and determination throughout all the matches. The children were great at tagging, and we achieved a few turn overs (by making 6 consecutive tags) throughout the matches. What brilliant defense skills we had. The children never gave up, even when the score line was not in our favour, and they scored some fantastic tries in all the matches.

Unfortunately, the finals have been postponed this half term due to the pitches being very wet and muddy. We are looking forward to our last few matches after half term though. Well done to everyone involved and thank you for the support from parents and carers.

Mrs Liggins (PE Lead)





## PTA News

After the half term break, we will be sending home Disco Flyers with the children. This is always such a great event, with the children (and grown-ups) having a lot of fun! We will also be running a 'Spring Raffle' - look out for us in the playground!



### Car Parking

We have had a few complaints from residents and members of the public about parking at The beginning and end of the school day.

Please be mindful of our local community when you are collecting your child from school and where you are parking.

Please take into consideration the following:-

- Do not park on the zig-zag lines outside of school.
- Do not block residents' driveways.
- Do not turn around on the grass area outside the front gates.

Thank you for your co-operation with this matter.



## School Council

School Council have had a busy half term! We have worked hard on our weekly book look where we look at a range of children's books to check the quality of their presentation including handwriting, correct grammar. We really enjoyed this opportunity to reflect on our own learning and that of our peers.

Our School Council have also worked alongside Mrs Dunning and Mrs Flynn to provide new play equipment for our children to use. We discussed what equipment the children might like to play with and then researched the best items to purchase. Since the equipment has arrived, we have overseen making sure that it is used in a respectful way and put away properly at the end of each break and lunchtime.

Finally, our School Council have decided to raise money for 'Greenway Owned', our local Hospice of St Francis Charity Shop. We went to visit the shop last week and were excited to purchase some items for our school. We also noticed that they have a rail outside the shop with free coats for people in need of a new one which we thought was a great initiative!

As part of our fundraising, we have got a loose change bottle in the school foyer so please encourage your children to bring in any spare coins to donate to this great cause. We are looking forward to working more with 'Greenway Owned' over the coming months



Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Half term
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	School opens 8.45am
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents – Come and have lunch with your child.
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Pancake Day!
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5 and Year 6 parents – Come and have lunch with your child.
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3 and 4 parents - Come and have lunch with your child.
WB 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Science Week
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 6 Family Ranger Day in the Outdoor Learning Area 1.30-3pm
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	R & Y1 Family Ranger Day in the Outdoor Learning Area 1.30-3pm
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	PTA Spring disco
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Red Nose Day – Home clothes and £1 donation
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Science Workshop Day!
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Assessment Week
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 4 Family Ranger Day in the Outdoor Learning Area 1.30-3pm
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March – Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Year 6 Residential to Norfolk Lakes
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents' Evening 3.30-6pm
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	9am SEND Coffee Morning
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents' Evening 3.30-6pm
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	PTA Spring disco
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 4 Assembly – 9am
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Year 3 Family Ranger Day in the Outdoor Learning Area 1.30-3pm
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Year 4 Art Exhibition 2.00pm
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Year 4 and Year 5 Music Concert 2.30pm
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Eid Celebrations
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Nursery Stay and Play. Easter parade and End of term – 1.15pm



# Uniform

Well done and thank you for ensuring that your child / children are coming into school in their correct uniform. Some children are not wearing appropriate footwear or clothing on their PE days. Make sure your child is dressed correctly each day. Below are the PE days for next half-term. If your child is not wearing correct uniform, we will be writing to you next half-term.

Reception / Year One – Wednesday and Thursday

Year 2 – Tuesday and Friday

Year 3 – Monday and Tuesday

Year 4 – Monday (swimming) and Wednesday

Year 5 – Monday (swimming) and Wednesday

Year 6 – Wednesday and Thursday

[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 and want to use all our outdoor space.

Please also have some additional footwear (old trainers/ wellies) for them to use when they are outside and using our outdoor learning area.



As you are aware, attending school every day is important for your child to make good progress in school. This academic year, several families have received fines for taking term time absences.

We monitor attendance and offering support to anyone who fails to meet the expected standard of above 95% attendance. If families fail to engage with us or fail to improve attendance, Buckinghamshire County Council's attendance team will be informed. This could then lead to fines. Lateness counts against attendance marks so all pupils must be present for morning registration. When pupils are late, including those in our nursery class, this has a huge impact on the running of learning sessions for the whole school. All our pupils deserve the best start to each day of learning. We have so much to fit into each school day, our learning starts the moment the children enter the classroom. If you have issues getting your child to Ivingswood Academy for 8.45am each day, please use our breakfast club which is open from 8am or make alternative arrangements so your child can be present on time each day.

If children are unwell during the day, we will contact you if they need to go home, however keeping your child at home because they have a little cough, or they had a late night, a sibling or parent is unwell or it's their birthday are not sufficient reasons to keep them home.



## **Ivingswood Academy Term Dates 2024-2025**

### **Autumn Term**

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December

Half-term – 25<sup>th</sup> October – 1<sup>st</sup> November

### **Spring Term**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January -Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April

Half-term – 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> February

### **Summer Term**

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

Half-term – 23<sup>rd</sup> May – 30<sup>th</sup> May

### **INSET days**

**(school is closed)**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January**

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July**

## Meet & Eat



### Meet & Eat, Chesham Free Family Lunch Club

*Sponsored by MakeLunch*

February half term holidays from 11.30am  
to 1.15pm. Lunch served at 12.30.

On the following dates:

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February

United Reformed Church, The Broadway, Chesham, HP5 1BX



Take the pressure off this holiday and come along to Meet and Eat in Chesham. We are **free** and open to families in and around Chesham who would like a healthy hot meal and a place to relax during the holidays, with activities for children. Perhaps you're feeling a little isolated, trying to manage on a tight budget and the kids are bored and you have another day to fill, then come along and join in.

URC, The Broadway, Chesham, HP5 1BX  
www.cheshamurc.org.uk rosemary@cheshamurc.org.uk  
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