

Volume 1: October 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.



Nursery Self-Portraits

A very busy first half-term was had by all! The children have shown that they were ready to learn in their new classes by completing challenges in our 'Grow Great Learners Week.' We have reinforced our 3 schools rules: Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Ready alongside our School Values of Respect, Aspire, Integrity and Nurture throughout this half term and I hope they have shared this work with you.

If you have changed your number or email address, you must let us know so we can change these details for you.

Have a relaxing half-term break and I look forward to seeing you on **Monday 3rd November.**

Mrs C Flynn
Head of School

Catkin Class - Miss Rose, Mrs Woolnough and Mrs Zain

What a great start to the new school year, Nursery have welcomed 14 new children this term and they have all settled very well. We have been learning *all about me* and the children have created some wonderful self-portraits and have had a great time talking about their families and looking at their family photos on their comfort cards.

We have been learning about body parts, fruit, and the seasons. We have loved playing with our fantastic new playground equipment, developing our climbing, balancing and jumping skills. The children are enjoying PE sessions where we have been moving in a variety of ways, experimenting with balancing and holding a pose and how to jump off and land safely. The children also continue to develop their physical skills in the garden, climbing, balancing and den building.

We all went on an Autumn walk, to gather leaves and look at the changes the season brings, it coincided with our fire drill and the children behaved beautifully, listening well and following instructions. We have celebrated several birthday's including Mrs Richardson's special one, and for our pom pom attendance treat we will be watching a short movie.

The new children have settled into the routines of Nursery and are learning the rules, helped by the older children showing them the ropes. We have been learning how to take turns and negotiate, how to be gentle and how to begin to solve conflicts. Our favourite story this term was [Barbara Throws a Wobbler](#) a great story about recognising and managing emotions.

The last few weeks we have been learning about how to take care of our teeth and what foods are healthy for us. We have also had a lovely fruit salad the children helped to make so we can taste the fruits we have been learning about.

The Hedghog's were enthralled by the story of Rama and Sita and all the children enjoyed making Diva lamps and Rangoli patterns for Diwali.

We can't wait for next term to explore our theme of light and dark and of course the excitement that Christmas brings. Have a happy half term!



Snowdrop – Mrs McKenzie and Miss Hayes

What a wonderful start to the term it has been in Reception! The children have settled in beautifully, quickly becoming familiar with our routines, making new friends, and showing great confidence as they explore both the classroom and outdoor areas. We've been learning all about ourselves — our likes, dislikes, and what makes us unique - and the children loved creating self-portraits to celebrate their individuality. Through The Colour Monster, we also explored our feelings, learning how to recognise and express emotions thoughtfully and kindly.

We've had lots of fun being creative, learning how to use different tools safely in our creative area. The children have made musical instruments while learning about the sense of hearing, created colourful fruit kebabs to explore taste and smell, and built houses for The Three Little Pigs. We've also been inspired by famous artists such as Kandinsky while learning about shapes, and Arcimboldo, who created imaginative portraits using fruit and vegetables. In literacy and maths, the children have enjoyed learning sounds, practising their early writing skills and exploring sorting, comparing, and noticing patterns through playful, hands-on learning. It's been a joyful start to the year, full of imagination, creativity, and curiosity — we're so proud of everything the children have achieved so far!



Lavender Class - Mrs Bacon , Mrs Gomm, Mrs Evans and Miss Pervaiz

In Bluebells we have had a lovely start to the year. In English we have read some great stories and used them to improve our writing skills. Little Red was a twist on Little Red Riding Hood, we also looked at other stories that were twists on the story. We have then looked at Stanley's Stick, we collected our own stick and wrote about what we could imagine with our own stick. Finally, we learned a little about puffins when we read Puffin Peter, who knew that puffins only lay one egg a year!

In maths we have worked on maths foundations of place value, number bonds and addition. Remember to keep up with Numbots – we will give out some certificates after half term. For geography we learned what a map is, the difference between north, south, east and west and how landmarks help us to get to school, we built a map of the classroom from Lego! For science we learned about our senses, we observed how our pupils change when the light changes and we explored the five tastes of sweet, sour, bitter, salty and umami. Obviously, everybody's favourite was sweet! Rules and routines were our focus for PSHE and RE and in art we have been learning to use pastels for drawing lines and shapes. We finished with drawing colours lines and shapes over a photograph of ourselves! As well as PE with our dedicated PE coach we have had the opportunity to visit Chiltern Hills Academy to take part in the Year 1 Football Festival – the weather was kind and the children had a wonderful time. We have had a fabulous transition from Reception to year 1 and year 1 to year 2, with a change in classroom and adults. I am very proud of the children's effort, contribution and resilience and looking forward to the next half-term which will bring us a nativity!

Next term, we will be learning about ourselves in our history lessons. We would love to have photos of the children and their families to look at. Please bring them in on the first week back or email them to office@ivingswoodacademy.org

If you have any items we could use for junk modeling such as: plastic bottles, cardboard, clean wrappers we would be delighted to have them. Thank you.



Rose Class - Mrs Liggins, Miss Daley and Miss Akhtar

Year 3 have had an exceptionally busy start to the year. In English, we have already written stories and poems. We read the story 'Stone Age Boy' and wrote our own versions of this, thinking about what it would have been like to suddenly find ourselves stuck in the Stone Age. We have just finished a poetry unit, reading and writing Kennings and quatrain poems. The children have done so well trying to make lines rhyme.

In maths we have covered place value – identifying what each digit in a number represents and what its value is and being able to order numbers accordingly. We are currently in part way through our addition and subtraction unit. We are adding 1s and 10s to 3-digit numbers. Please also remember to log in to Times table Rock Stars to continue practising their times tables.

In history, we have been learning about pre-history, the stone age through to the iron age and how life developed over thousands of years. We have also been able to compare life then to how our lives are now.

The children have applied themselves brilliantly to their first science unit, Scientific Enquiry. Through our work, we have explored the steps involved carrying out an investigation; from posing questions to thinking about a hypothesis (prediction) to writing a method. Once our experiment has been completed, we have examined our results and formed conclusions. We have even challenged ourselves to thinking about what makes a test fair and thought about the variables that we could change. Our investigations have involved designing and making solar ovens, finding the best liquid to clean a coin and using a control in an experiment (cake making- very scrummy!)

In PE we have been dancing and representing the layers of the earth! We have also been developing our skills in a range of sports and activities in our multi-skills lessons. In music we have begun to learn some tunes on the recorder – we are preparing already for our music assembly at Christmas! Lastly, but by no means least, we have been creating our own pumpkins, inspired by our 'Artist of the Half Term' Yayoi Kusama. We were very excited to share these with our families and friends at our art exhibition this week.

It has been a great half term, and we are excited to continue our learning after the break.



Maple Class – Miss Race and Mrs Weedon

Year 4 have had an incredibly busy half term! In Maths, we have already covered 3 topics! We started with place value – using our knowledge from Year 3 to help us! We learnt how to round to the nearest 10,100 and 1000! We then moved on to our Addition and Subtraction topic. We have worked hard on adding and subtracting using the column method – working especially hard when we need to exchange! Finally, we completed our topic on Area! Year 4 have also been working hard on our times tables. They have been getting homework to practice these and they have their TTRS log ins to help them practice at home!

In Geography, we have been learning all about the UK. We have learned about lots of different counties and what makes them unique! Year 4 have thoroughly enjoyed our reading and phonics lessons this half term. In phonics, children have been continuing to work on their knowledge of different sounds and using them to help them with their writing. In reading, we have been working on growing our vocabulary, practicing our retrieval skills and working on summarising more than 1 paragraph.

In Science, we have been learning about the digestive system, teeth and food chains! We especially enjoyed our experiment that showed us how different liquids effect your teeth!

In writing, we have written a diary entry, a persuasive text and a narrative!

Year 4 have been working incredible hard and we look forward to carrying on with our learning after half term!



Cherry Class – Mrs Rowley and Miss Walker

What a great start to the year, Year 5! You have worked really hard and focused on making progress in your learning.

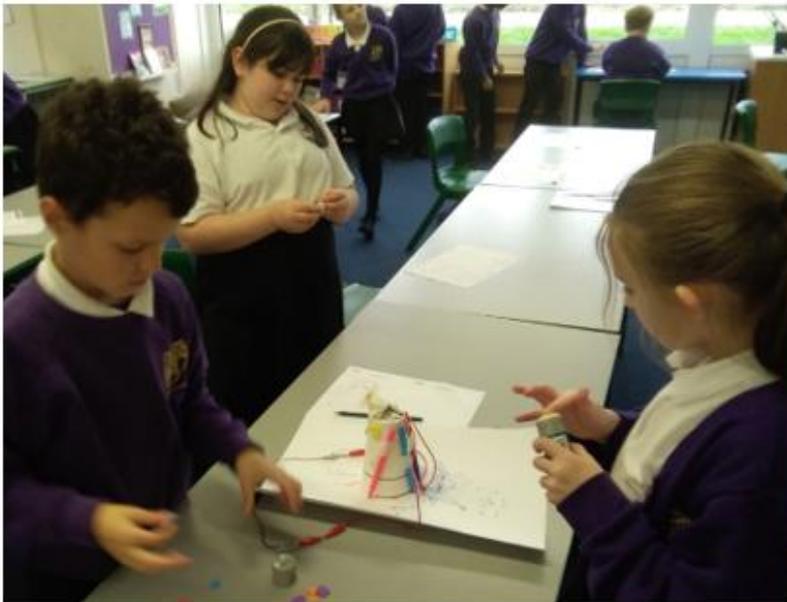
In English, we have written a story based on The Dot book that we read at the beginning of term. It helped us think about how to have resilience and never give up. We then went on to writing a persuasive letter to our MP, Sarah Green, about why she should talk to parliament about making new laws about recycling and cutting down on rubbish and pollution. After that, we wrote a non-chronological report about a planet.

In Maths, we have built on our previous place value knowledge and really impressed Mrs Rowley with our addition and subtraction skills. We've moved onto multiplication and division facts and have been interested in finding factors and multiples of numbers.

For our Science this half term, we have taken to space to learn about the Earth and Moon and how they move in relation to the Sun. It is a really challenging concept to be able to explain why we see different positions of the Sun and Moon at different times of the day and year, but the children have been able to explain their learning well.

We have been learning all about Our Blue Planet in geography and made a river in the sandpit to show how rivers change the landscape around the world.

We really enjoyed making our doodlers in DT and sharing them with our Year 4 friends. The children managed to make sure their doodlers balanced and the circuit they built was attached so that the doodlers would draw as they moved.

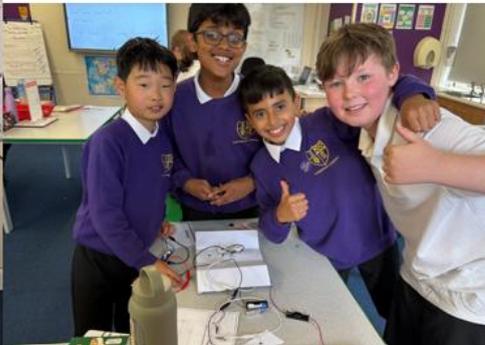


Oak Class – Mr O’Callaghan and Miss Sample

The Year 6 children have applied themselves enthusiastically to their first science unit which has developed their understanding of electricity. It was wonderful to see them apply and build upon their learning in Year 4 to investigate how voltage affects the components in a circuit, correct mistakes within a circuit and find out what affects a circuit’s output. They then applied their knowledge of conductors and insulators to solve real-life problems. Next half term, we move on to learning about evolution and inheritance.

The class are working hard to continue to develop their ukelele skills from Year 5. They have revised some chords and are using these to perform various simple nursery rhymes. After half term, our attention will turn to preparing for the music concert in December. We hope lots of you will be able to attend!

Our focus in French has been the Olympics, so we have been finding out the words for various sports and expressing our preferences. We have also used ‘cognates’, which is where you look for similarities between the French and English word to work out its meaning.



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.



Parents' Evening

We will be holding our Autumn parents' evening on Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th November. You will receive information after half-term on how to book your slot to meet with the class teacher to discuss your child, their academic ability, their targets and expectations for the year and to discuss any questions/queries you may have.

Non-Uniform Day – Friday 7th November

On Friday 7th November, we will be hosted a non-uniform day asking for donations for our Christmas Fayre.

If your child is in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, please bring wrapped sweets or chocolates.

If your child is in Year 3, 4, 5 or 6, please bring a bottle.

Thank you for your support.

PTA News

The PTA is excited for another fun year! Thank you to all who attended our disco this week!



If you are interested in joining our active PTA – please email us on pta@ivingswoodacademy.org or speak with Miss Sample or Miss Adams on the playground!

Ivingswood Academy
CHRISTMAS FAYRE
IN THE SCHOOL HALL
28TH NOV
3.15-5PM
FREE ENTRY
Tombolas, Games, Raffle,
Art Table, Adopt a Teddy,
Refreshments!
Join us for some
Christmas FUN-draising!

Chiltern League

We have had a great first half term. We have kicked off the Chiltern League this year with Boys Football. The boys have played so well and have done everything that has been asked of them and more. They should be very proud of themselves.

We started with a match against a tough Chartridge team, followed the very next day by playing Brushwood. The boys demonstrated excellent teamwork and perseverance and although we lost the boys never gave up. We followed these the following week with a match against Ley Hill, where we got our first win! And we completed our weekly matches against Chesham Bois. Another hard fought match.

It culminated in an afternoon of football at Amersham Town Football Club where we played the remaining 4 schools, Thomas Harding, Waterside, Hawridge and Cholesbury and Our Ladies. By the end of the afternoon, we were undefeated and hadn't conceded a goal. Great work everyone! What a fantastic afternoon it was. We finished 5th which was an amazing achievement – so close to being in the finals.





Miss Race is getting married!



Good luck and congratulations to Miss Race who is getting married during the half-term holidays. After the half-term she will be known as Mrs. Hollis-Race.

Healthy Eating

Diet and nutrition play an important role in the mental, physical and social development of a child. The establishment of healthy eating in childhood can reduce the risk of health problems such as coronary heart disease, diabetes and osteoporosis in later life. With this in mind, we aim to establish good eating habits, to promote good growth and to hope that these will be continued into adulthood. Recently we have noticed in school that some children are bringing in foods with high fat and sugar content and would like to take the opportunity to work with children to enable them to make healthier choices.

Please refer to our Healthy Eating Policy (available on our website) and [Healthier Families - Home - NHS](#) for further guidance.

Diary Dates

Monday 27 th Oct – Friday 31 st October	Half term
Monday 3 rd November	Autumn 2 term starts.
Friday 7 th November	Year 6 Class assembly 9am
WB 10 th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Tuesday 11 th November	Remembrance Assembly
Tuesday 11 th November	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 12 th November	Parents' Evening
Thursday 13 th November	Reception Class Multi-Skills Festival at Chiltern Hills Academy
Friday 14 th November	Children in Need – Home clothes and £1 donation
Friday 21 st November	Christmas in Chesham event
WB Monday 24 th November	Assessment Week
Friday 28 th November	Decorate the Christmas Tree assembly
Friday 28 th November	PTA Christmas Fayre 3.15- 5pm.
Wednesday 3 rd December	Year 6 Gymnastics Festival - Chiltern Hills Academy
Friday 5 th December	School closed – INSET day
Thursday 11 th December	Year 5 Art exhibition 2.30pm
Friday 12 th December	Christmas Jumper Day – home clothes and £1 donation
Friday 12 th December	Year 3 and Year 6 Music Concert – 2.30pm.
Monday 15 th December	Christmas Café and Craft. Come and make a Christmas craft and visit our café with your child from 2pm.
Tuesday 16 th December	KS1 Nativity – time TBC
Wednesday 17 th December	KS1 Nativity – Time TBC
Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas Lunch – book on ParentPay
Thursday 18 th December	Trip to the Elgiva Theatre –Collect from the Elgiva 3.15pm.
Friday 19 th December	Nursery Stay and Play
Friday 19 th December	Last day of the Autumn term – school closes at 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. We are holding pre-loved uniform sales throughout the year and reminders will be sent out.

[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.



Thank you

We would like to thank all families for making our first half term at Ivingswood so fantastic and welcoming. We are proud to be part of your community and support both you and your children for this academic year. We have both very much enjoyed being part of every single class throughout this half term; from teaching in Year 6 to popping into the other year groups to help with their learning and get to know them individually as each child really is a credit to our school. We cannot wait to see what the rest of the year brings and celebrating all the opportunities and successes with you all. Have a brilliant half term break.

Mrs Twyman and Mr O'Callaghan



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. The government has changed the attendance rules and a poster explaining those differences is below.

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. 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 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.

Discover, Play, Make!

FREE Halloween Crafting workshop



FREE DROP IN EVENT

Wednesday October 29th

10.15am- 11.45am.

Halloween crafts for all ages and if you are brave enough you can find out about some spooky stories and horrible history facts about our town!

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Meet & Eat



Meet & Eat, Chesham Free Family Lunch Club

Sponsored by MakeLunch

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

On the following dates:

Tuesday 28th & Thursday 30th October

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.