

Volume 2: December 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.



One highlight of the term was visiting the Elgiva theatre to watch Jack and the Beanstalk. The children were mesmerized by the lights and sounds. Dancers in the show said we were the best audience they had ever had!

I know I say this every term, but wow that was a busy term! Our children have had some fantastic opportunities this term in their learning and personal development. Visits from firemen, trips to the Elgiva, work experience with Chiltern Rangers, visit to the post office, a trip to the local church, sporting sessions at Chiltern Hills Academy and performing plays have all happened in the last 12 weeks.

A huge thank you to all our staff, families and LAC members for their continued support for the school. I wish all our families a restful break and a very happy 2026.

Mrs C Flynn
Head of School

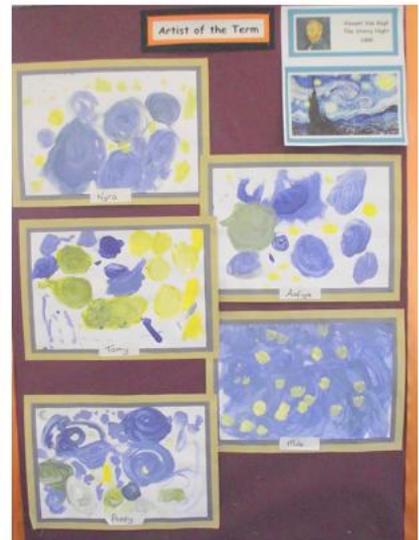
Catkin Class - Miss Rose, Mrs Woolnough and Mrs Zain

Nursery have had a fabulous term, we are settled into our rules and routines and have been learning so much! Our theme has been light and dark and we have experimented with shadows, talked about different light sources and found out lots of facts about nocturnal animals. Our artist of the term was Van Gogh and we recreated some beautiful starry night pictures.

Our first trip out of school happened last week and was a great success, we joined Reception class and all walked to Hope Church for a Christmas event that the children will remember fondly for a long time. We played with a giant parachute, made lots of lovely craft, listened to the Christmas story had a super snack and Santa and his Elf popped in to see us too! It was very exciting. Thank you to all the parents who helped us.

December has been an exciting time, the children worked hard to make salt dough decorations, cards, Christmas trees, Santa in a chimney and we will be finding glitter everywhere for the next year! We had a great time with parents at our Come & Play session, eating toast and mince pies and performing a Makaton signed version of When Santa got Stick up the Chimney.

Next term our theme is *Give it a Go* and we look forward to creating lots of challenges and working on perseverance and achievements. We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Snowdrop – Mrs McKenzie and Miss Hayes

This half term, we've had a wonderful time learning all about **People Who Help Us** and celebrating our everyday heroes. The children loved exploring different jobs and discovering how people in our community help to keep us safe, healthy, and cared for.

Through lots of imaginative play and hands-on activities, we became **firefighters, police officers, doctors, vets, and postmen**. One of the highlights was learning about postmen, when we visited our **local post office**. The children learned how to write a letter, address it, and post it, and were very excited to see what happens once a letter is sent.

In **Maths**, we've been building confidence with **numbers up to five**, focusing on number composition and recognising amounts in different ways. We also enjoyed exploring weight, length, shapes and **patterns**. The children did a fantastic job using their pattern knowledge to create festive Christmas decorations.

We also spent time talking about **how to stay safe and healthy**. The children learned about *stranger danger*, the importance of finding a **trusted adult** if they need help, and what makes a **healthy lunchbox**. They had great fun creating their own healthy lunchboxes using pictures and even made a tasty **fruit shake** together.

Our classroom has been full of creativity this half term. We loved creating colourful **firework pictures**, making **poppies for Remembrance Day**, and taking part in many other art activities that allowed the children to explore their ideas and express themselves.

In **Phonics**, the children have made brilliant progress. They are becoming more confident with their sounds and are now enjoying using their phonics knowledge to write **simple words**. It's been lovely to see their confidence grow.

It's been a busy, happy half term full of learning, creativity, and excitement. Thank you, as always, for your support. We're really proud of how much the children have achieved and are looking forward to what's to come next. Merry Christmas and Happy New year to you all!



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

What a lovely half term it has been ending in our wonderful nativity which due to illness had a different cast every day during rehearsals – didn't they do well?!

Our writing lessons have focussed on books, including Gruffalo Crumble where we learning about writing instructions. We followed the recipe to make fox sandwiches! Also we have been studying Mr Big and The Jolly Christmas Postman. We have been developing our sentence structure and are becoming expert with writing in fully punctuated sentences. During our maths lessons we have been working hard with numbers to 50 and 100. Ending this week in looking at 2D and 3D shape.

Our focus in science has been animal classification and understanding the differences between mammals, fish, reptiles, amphibians and birds.

We have discovered how we learn about the past and looked at our own history.

We have been looking at making stable structures in DT, making and testing our own windmills.

We are looking forward to our coming adventures in the new year.



Rose Class - Mrs Liggins, Miss Daley and Miss Akhtar

Yet again, Year 3 have worked their socks off this half term. It has been a long half term, but the children have shown great enthusiasm and effort throughout.

In English, we have written two narratives, based on the books 'The True Story of the Three Little Pigs' and a picture book 'Flood'. We have developed our use of adjectives, powerful verbs and similes to enhance our descriptive writing and have worked on using speech and a variety of fronted adverbials to begin our sentences in different ways. I have enjoyed reading their stories.

In maths, we have worked hard on addition and subtraction, especially using the column method to solve problems and calculations. We have also been working on our multiplication and division skills over the last few weeks. It is essential that children continue to practise their times tables at home, using Times Table Rockstars, and focus on 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10 times tables.

In science, the children have been learning about our bodies and skeletons in their unit 'Animals, including Humans'.

In music, we worked hard to learn our performance pieces for our concert with Year 6 last week. Thank you to all parents and carers that came to watch. The children enjoyed learning the different songs and picked up the rhythms and notes quickly. I was so impressed with their musical ability. In PE, the children have developed their teamwork and ball skills through a range of sports and activities, as well as practising and honing their gymnastics skills.

In geography this half term we have been delving into the world of Biomes. We have learnt about the different biomes across the world and what animals and plants live in these regions and how they have adapted to survive in certain conditions. In DT we learnt about seasonal food and why it is important for us to be buying and eating seasonal fruit and vegetables. We designed and made vegetable tarts, whilst practising our cutting and peeling skills.

Well done to all the children this half term, I definitely think we are all ready for the rest. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Maple Class – Miss Race and Mrs Weedon

What a brilliant half term it has been for Year 4! The children have shown incredible effort, resilience and enthusiasm in all areas of their learning, and we are very proud of everything they have achieved. They approached their assessments with maturity and focus, demonstrating just how hard they have been working since September.

In writing, the children have produced two fantastic pieces. First, they crafted detailed and engaging newspaper reports, thinking carefully about structure, vocabulary and the features of journalistic writing. They then moved on to creating their own narratives inspired by Beowulf, developing exciting characters to include in their stories. Their phonics and reading comprehension work has also been impressive; it has been wonderful to see their confidence as readers continue to grow week by week.

Maths has been a hive of activity, with the class working extremely hard on their times tables knowledge—an essential skill for Year 4. Please ensure that over the Christmas holidays, your child is logging on to TimesTables Rockstars and taking part in battles on soundcheck mode. Alongside this, we have been revisiting key concepts from earlier in the year to consolidate understanding, and the children have made fantastic progress through their determination and positive attitude.

Our science topic this half term has been Sound, which has certainly captured everyone's curiosity. The children explored how sound is made, how it travels, and how we hear it, finishing the unit by designing and making their own musical instruments. Their creativity and problem-solving skills really shone through. History has taken us on a fascinating journey as we compared the lives of children in Tudor times, the Victorian era and the modern day. The class enjoyed discussing similarities and differences, and were particularly shocked by some of the jobs Victorian children had to do!

In PSHE, our unit on Celebrating Differences has encouraged thoughtful discussions about respect, kindness and understanding what makes each of us unique. Music has been full of energy as we delved into the world of Rock and Roll—complete with learning the Hand Jive, which the children performed with great enthusiasm. In art, Year 4 have worked hard on developing their sketching and shading techniques, creating some beautifully detailed pieces. It has been a truly wonderful half term. We hope all our Year 4 families enjoy a restful, joyful Christmas break. We are very much looking forward to welcoming the children back in January for more exciting learning adventures!



Cherry Class – Mrs Rowley and Miss Walker

What a fantastic half term we have had! Our English and History topics intertwined as we travelled back to Ancient Greece and learnt what life was like, the differences between an ancient civilisation and the present day and the legacies that they left us with. From Pythagoras to Socrates, Zeus to Hades, Spartans to Athenians our knowledge of Greece really has increased. In English, Virgo had made a very big mistake in releasing a death-daemon Thanatos who then was planning to take over the world. We wrote their own chapter of this book concentrating on vocabulary choices and ways of creating tension within a narrative.

In Maths, we have been working really hard and persevering with fractions. We have been identifying unit and non-unit fractions, comparing and ordering improper and mixed fractions and converting between the two. We have also been using this knowledge to add and subtract fractions where the answer will be breaking the whole.

In Science, we have been discovering the properties of different materials and using key vocabulary such as 'solvent' 'solute' and 'solution'. We will further this learning next half term by moving on to changes in materials where we will look at reversible and irreversible changes and reactions during chemical reactions.

We have had a lovely term and well done to the children for showing resilience in all of their curriculum topics. We look forward to welcoming them back in January after a much-needed break ready for the Spring Term. Happy Holidays from the Year 5 team.



Oak Class – Mr O’Callaghan and Miss Sample

A great half term has been had by all our Year 6 pupils! We have thoroughly enjoyed reading *Holes* by Louis Sachar in our English lessons. Writing tasks have included diary entries when writing as a character and also writing a persuasive advert for Camp Green Lake. I have been really impressed with their writing and attitudes to learning. As an end of term treat, we even got to watch the film version of *Holes*.

Maths has been based on fractions and we are becoming experts! This is a big area of focus for are SATs in May, so we know how important it is to be able to calculate with fractions. If your child is still not confident with all their times tables, you can help them improve all their maths skills by encouraging them to use their logins for TimeTable Rockstars or play some online maths games. Year 6 children need to know number facts at speed, so all practice is excellent!

Mrs Flynn has been proud of our sewing skills this half-term. We designed and made bags. Some designed bags for themselves, others chose to make them as a gift for a loved one. The children persevered with the sewing - threading needles and tying knots is tricky! We were lucky enough to have some help from Mrs Davies, one of our volunteers, who is a sewing expert!

For our history unit, Year 6 learnt all about the census of 1911 and 1921 and used this to conduct our own enquiry of the local area using primary and secondary sources. We found out some of our surnames date back to 1800 on Vale Road, Chesham!

We loved visiting Chiltern Hills Academy in early December to take part in their gymnastics festival.

We hope all our Year 6 families enjoy a restful, joyful Christmas break. We are very much looking forward to welcoming the children back in January for more exciting learning opportunities and SATS preparation.



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.

PTA News

We've had a fantastic start to the school year! Our Christmas Fayre was a huge success, raising over £950 for the school! Thank you to everyone who came along, supported, donated or volunteered! Events like these wouldn't be possible without our school community.

This term we have funded 10 new tablets, to enhance our maths provision, scooters for Early Years and we have subsidised Pantomime tickets, making this cheaper for our families – which all helps at this time of year!

Next term, we have a disco planned, along with planning ahead for our Summer Fayre, and lots of fun activities for the children and families to enjoy.

We always welcome ideas, recommendations or suggestions for future events. If you'd like to get involved, please speak with Mrs Flynn, Miss Sample or Miss Adams, or email us at pta@ivingswoodacademy.org

Thank you again for your continued support – we can't wait for another great year ahead!



Chiltern League

Another exciting half term of sport for our Year 5 and 6 sporting heroes. This half term was netball in the Chiltern League and we had a bumper group of enthusiastic players. We started with a match against Chesham Bois, who towered over us. We didn't allow that to put us off and we played brilliantly, especially considering some of us had never played netball before. Unfortunately, we lost but that didn't stop us turning up next week and again playing just as well, if not better, against Waterside where we got our first win of the season. Our matches continued after school against Brushwood and Chartridge before culminating in the finals' afternoon at Brushwood School. Here, we played Thomas Harding, Our Lady's, Hawridge and Cholesbury and Ley Hill. It was an action packed afternoon and the children did themselves proud. We won two and lost two and ended in 6th place – a very respectable position. We're now ready for Tag Rugby in the New Year.



SLT News

What a busy half term this has been! Children are now fully settled in their routines and showing their maturity and readiness for learning every single day. We have had many great enrichment activities this half term with the whole school trip to the panto being a highlight for everyone. Moving into the new year, Ivingswood have been offered another amazing whole school trip to The Chesham Dentist on Berkhamsted Road where children have been offered a free dental examination and fluoride varnish. Keep your eyes peeled for more information during the first week back.

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.

Parental Questionnaires

Thank you to all our families who completed the parental questionnaire and wrap around care surveys this term. I am collating the responses and will share the findings in the new year with you all.

Spring Term Clubs

New clubs will be emailed in the first week back in January. Please look out for this information and only sign up your child to those clubs they have an interest in and one they will commit to. Our staff and volunteers plan activities in their own time for the children and occasionally some children do not engage which impacts the others in the session.

Diary Dates

Monday 5 th January	School closed – INSET day
Tuesday 6 th January	Spring term starts 8.45
Wednesday 4 th February	Young Voices – Year 5 music trip
Friday 6 th February	Year 3 Class Assembly 9am
WB 9 th February	Keeping Safe Week
Tuesday 10 th – Friday 13 th March	Scholastics Book Fair
Friday 13 th February	Parents to come into school to see the work from 2.30pm to celebrate our Keeping Safe week.
Friday 13 th February	Year 6 Art exhibition 2.30pm
Monday 16 th – Friday 20 th February	Half term
Monday 23 rd February	School opens 8.45am
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day
WB 9 th March	Assessment Week
WB 9 th March	Science Week
Friday 13 th March	Year 1 and Year 2 Class Assembly 9am
Wednesday 18 th March	Year 4 and Year 5 music concert 2.30pm
Monday 23 rd March	Eid Celebrations
Tuesday 24 th March	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 25 th March	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 25 th March	Year 4 Art Exhibition 2.30pm
Thursday 26 th March	PTA Spring Disco
Friday 27 th March	Nursery Stay and Play
Friday 27 th March	Easter parade and End of term – 1.15pm

CHRISTMAS AT HOPE CHURCH



FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER - 10:00AM: PRE-SCHOOL SPECIAL

A fun-packed hour for Under 5s and their carers

SUNDAY 14TH - 4:00PM: CAROL SINGING IN THE COMMUNITY

No experience or skill needed! Come and join us to sing carols around Hivings.

We will finish with some carols in the Belmont Club c. 5.30pm

THURSDAY 18TH - 12:00PM: COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Fellowship, Fun, Festive Food (and Carols). Pre-booking is essential.

Please contact 07961 305772 to book your place

SUNDAY 21ST - 10:30AM: FAMILY NATIVITY

A joyful recreation of the Christmas story

SUNDAY 21ST - 6:00PM: COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE

Start your Christmas with familiar carols and seasonal refreshments

WEDNESDAY 24TH - CHRISTMAS EVE - 4:00PM: CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

A special service for families as we celebrate Jesus, the light of the world,
and make our own Christingles

THURSDAY 25TH - CHRISTMAS DAY - 10:30AM: CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Celebrate the true story at the heart of Christmas with our service for all ages

We would love you to join us this Christmas season!

HOPE CHURCH CHESHAM
UPPER BELMONT RD,
HP5 2DB



CONTACT US:
eddown@hopechesham.org
07541 904042