

Volume 3: February 2026

# 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 5 – Before our trip to Young Voices. Check out our Facebook or X account for more pictures and videos.**

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. Miss Race sent a letter home yesterday 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.

I am hoping that the rain will stop over next week, so we can all get outside! Have a good rest and I look forward to seeing you all on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

Mrs C Flynn  
Head of School

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

Our theme this term has been "Give it a Go" and the children have thought about what they really want to be able to do, but can't manage just yet. They have been working hard to practice achieving their goals. We have lots of zips zipping, scissors snipping and some wonderful name writing and tracing each day. Perseverance is key and children are trying really hard to keep on trying, even if it's tricky.

We have been learning all about vegetables and had stories about runaway peas, a sleepless Princess and a pea, supertato and enjoyed inviting Tigers and other animals to tea parties. We continue to learn about how to keep our teeth healthy and what we can do to look after ourselves. The Hedgehogs have been developing their story telling skills and are building their confidence to act these stories out in a group, these popular Helicopter Story sessions are a wonderful, fun way to increase confidence and build vocabulary and speech and language skills.

We made some delicious bread and have experimented with ice and looking at the changes Winter has brought to our garden.

We ended the term with our Pom Pom attendance treat of a Disco and LOVED our new Disco ball. We have been fortunate enough to have many new resources this term, some bikes, trikes and scooters for outside and some great loose parts and construction toys and puzzles for the classroom.

Next term we look forward to our theme of "Come Outside" and are hoping after half term to see some signs of Spring in our Garden. If you have any seeds or bulbs to donate, we would be most grateful.



## Snowdrop – Mrs McKenzie and Miss Hayes

This half term has been full of excitement and discovery, centred around our theme Once Upon a Time, exploring traditional stories. The children thoroughly enjoyed listening to and sequencing the stories, learning repeated phrases, and exploring beautiful new adjectives. They had great fun recreating the stories themselves, using musical instruments to enhance their performances and bring the narratives to life.

Alongside this, we explored the seasons and natural elements happening around us. We focused particularly on rain, rainbows, and wind, creating thoughtful and imaginative models to help us understand the world we live in. This term was also rich in celebrations and cultural learning. We discussed how Chinese New Year is celebrated, learned about the story behind Valentine's Day, and explored the Christian meaning of Shrove Tuesday. These discussions sparked curiosity and encouraged the children to share their own experiences and ideas.

The children have made fantastic progress in phonics and are now much more confident in writing words and attempting sentences independently. Creativity was also a big focus this term as we learned how to use our new watercolours, experimenting with colour mixing to create new shades and effects.

We also spent time learning about personal goals; how to tackle challenges, set achievable aims, encourage one another, and use kind, supportive words. We made links between these skills and how they will support the children in their future learning and roles.

We are incredibly proud of all the children's achievements this term and are very much looking forward to the next exciting chapter of learning together.



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

We have had a very exciting half term. For maths we have focussed on addition and subtraction, we have become excellent at using base ten to help us with our calculating. In writing we have looked at two books *The Last Noo Noo* and *Here Comes Mr Postmouse* and a short Pixar film - *Taking Flight*. *Here Comes Mr Postmouse* has been our favourite by far with its beautifully detailed illustrations – every time we look at the book we see something new! For science we have looked at everyday materials. We understand the difference between objects and materials and have been thinking about their properties using vocabulary such as bendy, stretchy, transparent, stiff, soft, hard and smooth. We will be thinking about how these properties make certain materials suitable for objects. We really enjoyed our trip to the dentist, the dentist counted our teeth and the dental nurse gave us a talk about how important cleaning our teeth was – particularly before we go to bed, so that there is less bacteria in your mouth at night. Us grown-ups were surprised to find that out too! In Geography we have been learning about the countries in the UK – the children can identify all the flags associated with the UK and can identify the shape of mainland UK too. We have really enjoyed making 3D paper sculptures in art. We have made 3D trees of life which we will be finishing this week and bringing home. In computing we celebrated Safer Internet Day where we learned about AI and how to keep safe using voice assistants such as Alexa and Siri. We are looking forward to learning to log in to the school laptops next half-term. Remember we have NumBots and Minute Maths for homework and look out for some QR codes to help practise phonics. Please remember to read with children every day - it is an essential skill for life! If any parents would like to come in to school of an afternoon to hear children read, we would love to see you. Please contact the office for further information.



## Rose Class - Mrs Liggins, Miss Daley and Miss Akhtar

As always, this term has been busy, and we have been working so hard on all our learning. The children should be so proud of themselves and make sure they continue to work just as hard for the remainder of the year.

In English, we have learnt how to write clear and effective instructions. We learnt about imperative verbs, adverbs, time conjunctions and fronted adverbials are so important in helping to keep our instructions easier to understand and follow. We have also learnt to write a detailed explanation text all about 'plant-watering robots' that we designed.

In maths, we continued our learning on multiplication and division. It is so important for us to keep practising our times tables, as these support us when solving more complex calculations. We were focussing on multiplying and dividing 2-digit numbers by a 1-digit number. We are now developing our measuring skills in our unit length and perimeter. We have been working hard on converting mm to cm and cm to metres and vice versa.

In geography we have been learning about Italy. We have studied the climate, the food they grow, the volcanoes and why Venice is sinking. From all that we have learnt, we can see why people like to visit Italy.

In PE we have been developing our teamwork through netball and football this half term. This has tested our passing, defending and communication skills. In art we have been focussing on drawing. We have been learning how shading can add definition to our drawings.

We continue to amaze ourselves and push ourselves to achieve our best. Keep up the good work Year 3. Enjoy the rest and I look forward to all the learning we still have to come.



## Maple Class – Miss Race and Mrs Weedon

This term has been full of learning and exciting opportunities in Year 4, and the children have shown fantastic effort and enthusiasm throughout. They have worked extremely hard across the curriculum and should be very proud of all they have achieved so far.

In science, we have been learning about electricity, exploring how circuits work and identifying the key components needed to power electrical devices. We used this knowledge in DT, where we designed and created our own torches, carefully thinking about functionality and design. In history, we have been learning about the ancient Maya civilisation, discovering their way of life, beliefs and achievements.

In maths, we have continued to build on our multiplication and division skills, developing confidence with calculations and problem-solving. We have also been learning about length and perimeter, measuring accurately and applying our knowledge to a range of practical activities.

We have continued to focus on developing our reading and phonics skills, supporting the children to build confidence, fluency and understanding. In writing, the children have written an engaging story opener and a non-chronological report, learning how to organise information clearly and use appropriate language for different purposes. We also enjoyed taking part in additional cooking sessions with Sam from the Country Trust, where the children developed practical skills and learnt more about healthy eating.

Year 4 have continued to challenge themselves and show a real commitment to their learning. Well done for all your hard work – we are looking forward to all the exciting learning still to come.



## Cherry Class – Mrs Rowley and Miss Walker

What a busy half term in Year 5! The children have been making sure that they are ready for learning by being properly equipped and their work has benefitted greatly! Well done Year 5! In Maths this half term we have been focussing on formal written methods of multiplication and division, multiplying fractions and then looking at the relationship between fractions and decimals. We have learnt decimal equivalents such as  $1/10$  is equal to  $0.1$  and  $1/100$  is equal to  $0.01$  and used this knowledge to partition and compare other decimals and fractions. At the beginning of the unit, fractions and decimals were an area of maths that we were unconfident in but thanks to the adults in our class we are growing in confidence and using concrete resources to help us consolidate our knowledge.

Before Christmas, we were investigating properties of materials and we carried this over to Spring 1 by investigating changes to materials. We have been lucky to have some brand new science equipment for us to undertake and observe changes to materials in real life situations. We were challenged to find out which liquid caused the most rusting to iron nails and how we could stop this on cars in the rain. We also needed to find out which liquid mixed with bicarbonate of soda would be best for creating a rocket. We used the same amount of liquid and amount of bicarb but changed the liquid itself; we used water, lemon juice, cola and vinegar. The results were amazing...there was so much carbon dioxide produced!

Geography saw us delve deeper into our connected world. We explored time zones and how geographers divide the world into sections for locational purposes. We used this to look at how this links to global trade and how we are connected to many countries just from trading with them for different types of goods. We then look at the impact of extreme weather on trade and economy. We didn't realise just how much a drought elsewhere in the world would affect us.

We have saved the best until last! On February 4<sup>th</sup>, we went to Wembley to take part in YOUNG VOICE 2026. It was amazing! The adults that came with us enjoyed updating you all on our socials and the children had a blast. As it was probably the only day this half term that hadn't rained, we had a lovely walk to the station and even got to eat our packed lunch outside before heading into the OVO arena. There were so many other schools there and when we sang together it made us all feel happy. When the concert started in the evening, every single person was dressed in white and there was a sea of blinking lights from our YV keyrings which made us feel like one big family. Our favourite song was 'Power in Me' which also came with actions. If you are lucky enough to be able to attend our concert at the end of next half term then you may be able to see a snippet of our performance in real life.

Have a fabulous and relaxing half term week and see you back ready for the Spring 2 😊



## Oak Class – Mr O’Callaghan and Miss Sample

This week, we took part in an assembly run by Mrs Bacon all about AI and questioning what we see online. We then mirrored this in our lesson looking at normal images taken by our staff and how we can use AI to edit them. We then spoke about how this impacts our mental health and what we can see online especially on social media. We spoke about how we can protect ourselves and how they are ‘idealist’ images and how we should be happy with ourselves.

In English, we have created amazing travel brochures focusing on writing persuasively. In our travel brochures, we discussed how we were going to persuade people to visit our chosen destination. Our destinations varied from our local Chesham Park to Malta to Australia and so many more amazing places. We then moved on to our writing to inform unit. This focused on the importance of exercise and what happens to us if we don’t exercise. We gave top tips for toddlers, young people, young adults and people who are over 65 years old. We used formal language, statistics and facts from the NHS website. On the last day of this half term, we will create a video explaining the importance of exercise and hope to persuade and inform people about what happens to their bodies if they choose not to.

In Maths, we have been looking at Algebra, focusing on expressions and equations. Year 6 have taken this challenge with the utmost dedication. Algebra can be a challenging topic to cover, but the end of unit assessment marks were overwhelmingly positive. Well done Year 6! We have also been multiplying and dividing decimal numbers by 10, 100 and 1,000 and multiplying a decimal number up to 2 decimal places by an integer. Year 6 have worked brilliantly in all areas of maths this half term and I am very proud of them!

We look forward to sharing our art work from this half term with the parents. We have been focusing on the artist MC Escher. We have been focusing on tessellation, shading and 3-D shapes. Our skills have developed so much over the past half term and our work is ready to be shared!

We have still been spending time with our Reception friends for part of Friday afternoon. We have been reading to them and been positive role models and taught them many things about the books we have read to them. Miss McKenzie, Miss Hayes and Miss Sample are so impressed, they want us to keep coming next half term. We walked down with our Reception friends to the Dentist and again, were such great role models, teaching them about Road Safety and ensuring they learnt about the importance of why we keep our mouths and teeth healthy.

The past 3 half terms have flown by. We have so much to look forward to in Spring 2 and the Summer Term and we want to ensure we value and make the most of every minute.

Residentials, sports day, SATS and so much more enjoyable activities are in store. Next half term, we will be reading the Orphans of the Tide by Struan Murray. This is a great text where we will be able to enhance our vocabulary, retrieve some important information and make brilliant inferences about what we are reading.

### **Reminder of our roles in school:**

Head Pupil: Momin

House Captains: Evie, Stephen, Georgia and Ali-Abass

Student Council: Ying

Sports Leaders: Archie and Lola

Peer Mentors: Khiara, Evie, Georgia and Halima





# 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

If you are interested in joining the PTA, or helping at events, please contact us at [pta@ivingswoodacademy.org](mailto:pta@ivingswoodacademy.org)

You can also join our Facebook group 'Ivingswood Academy PTA' or speak with Miss Adams or Miss Sample.

Next half term diary dates – We will be having a disco on 26<sup>th</sup> April – Flyers will be sent nearer the time!

## Keeping Safe Week

Keeping Safe Week started on Monday with our whole school assembly where we learnt all about who keeps us safe in our lives. We learnt about the responsibilities of the adults in our lives, but also what we must do to keep ourselves and class friends safe.

We listened to what other pupils think about being safe in school and how it affects us when other children behave unsafe.

At Ivingswood Academy, our three school rules are: Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be Ready for learning.

Internet Safety Day on Tuesday was fun. Mrs Bacon used AI to create a video of Mrs Flynn cancelling our breaktimes! The children were able to spot the fake parts of the video and question what they see online.

Parents and Carers, if you need support with how to keep your child safe online, Childnet is an excellent source of advice. [Help & advice | Childnet](#)

This week, when we have discussed keeping safe online, many of our pupils report they play games which are not suitable for their age group, or that they are online without their parents knowing, they report that they spend a lot of time online when at home also. Please use the half-term break to speak to your child about the amount of time they are online for and how to keep them safe. Much research shows the damage of too much screen time has on our young people and how important play, imagination, being outside is.



# Chiltern League

This sport for this half term is tag rugby. The weather has not been our friend and we have only managed one match so far. This match was against Brushwood, which we lost but the children played exceptionally well and managed to score 3 tries. Brilliant. Fingers crossed we get to play some more matches soon.

In other sport news, the girls are having a great time developing their skills. On Wednesdays after school, we have girls' rugby taking place, which is led by a coach from Chesham 'Stags' Rugby. On Monday after school, we have football training for the girls in preparation for their Chiltern League matches after half term. They are having a fab time so far. I am so impressed with their commitment and energy each week.



## 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 17<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 19<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  
07939 668271

## Diary Dates

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February  | School opens 8.45am                    |
| Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> February | Chiltern Ranger Day                    |
| Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March    | World Book Day                         |
| WB 9 <sup>th</sup> March          | Assessment Week                        |
| WB 9 <sup>th</sup> March          | Science Week                           |
| Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March     | Science Workshop Day                   |
| Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March  | Year 4 and 5 Music concert 2.30pm      |
| Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March     | Eid Celebrations                       |
| Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March    | Parents' Evening                       |
| Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March  | Parents' Evening                       |
| Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March  | Year 4 Art Exhibition 2.30pm           |
| Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March   | PTA Spring Disco                       |
| Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> April     | Nursery Stay and Play                  |
| Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> April     | 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. 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.



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. All information regarding attendance can be found on our school website.

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.

**World Book Day**, the international celebration of books and reading, takes place on **Thursday 5th March** this year. We will mark this in school with some special activities and assemblies. Your child could also bring a special book they would like to speak about or share with their class.

### **Dress Up!**

This year we will be celebrating World Book Day by once again having a dress up day on Thursday 5th March and coming to school as our favourite book characters. This can be as simple and low cost, or as extravagant as you wish and the teachers will be joining in too!

If you would like some ideas about what to dress up as, please visit <https://www.worldbookday.com/resource-types/dressing-up/>



### **Book Tokens**

To spread the word about the pleasures of reading, every child in the UK and Ireland will receive a free £1 World Book Token. These tokens can be redeemed at all participating bookshops from 12 February – 15 March 2026. The World Book Day Token is also directly exchangeable for any of the special £1 books found here: <https://www.worldbookday.com/books-and-tokens/>

### **Book Fair**

We will also be hosting our Scholastic Book Fair from the 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Plea for items**

We are looking for some supplies to enhance our outdoor provision in our Reception Class. If you have any metal colanders, saucepans, pots with lids, wooden spoons and utensils that you do not want any more, we would love to have them.

Our Treetops space is our nurture provision for the school, and we are in need of new dining chairs for this area. If you know of anyone who has some to donate, please do get in touch.

Thank you so much.