

Volume 5: May 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 3 visited Chiltern Hills Academy to take part in their tennis festival this term.

Thank you to all those who were able to come and join our sports day, picnic and open afternoon. The children and staff love sharing their learning with home and the buzz around school was fantastic.

As we approach the second summer term, please remember to send your child to school with a named water bottle each day.

I would like to wish Eid Mubarak to those celebrating Eid al-Adha over the break.

Have a restful 10-day break – and I look forward to seeing you on Monday 1st June.

**Mrs C Flynn
Head of School**

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

Nursery have had a very exciting term learning about the wonderful world above us and below the ocean. We have found out that starfish have no brains, no blood, up to 50 eyes and eat by pushing their stomachs through their mouth... amazing! Our favourite story this term was *Aliens love Underpants*, we had a great time making a washing line full of underpants and creating our own aliens.

We have had a delivery of lots of new equipment, bikes, scooters, balls, bubbles, and a wonderful new playhouse. Our little allotment is coming on nicely, with peas, beans, radishes, onions and lettuces planted. Our mini cucumbers took a turn and are being nursed back to health by our chief gardener, hopefully they will recover and give us a fabulous harvest in the summer! Our sunflower seeds are growing fast and will be ready to plant out after half term. The mason bees who took over our digging pit seem to finally be on the move, so we look forward to getting messy in the mud soon.

We continue to have drawing club where the children draw the story or rhyme of the week. The detail and fine motor skills are improving every week, and the children love to express emotions and loud noises through their crayons.

This week we made currant buns and enjoyed singing our poetry basket rhyme of *5 currant buns*. The children loved playing shops and bakers with our new toys and have been learning about taking turns and sharing.

The Hedgehogs have worked hard learning their sounds in phonics and writing all the letters, they are all getting excited about joining reception and are keen to be ready for "Big School". We look forward to spending some time in Reception next term as part of our transition process.

Next term we are learning about *Fantastic Beasts* and can't wait to learn more about all the weird and wonderful bugs in the world.



Snowdrop – Mrs McKenzie and Miss Hayes

This half term, our theme has been *Creatures Big and Small*, and we have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the fascinating world of animals through stories, creativity, and hands on learning. We shared wonderful stories such as *Twist and Hop*, *Minibeast Bop*, *Tiddler*, *Dear Dinosaur*, and many others, which inspired our learning across the curriculum.

The children explored where different animals live and discussed what living things need to survive and thrive. We learned about animal body parts and began to classify animals by their features and habitats. The children showed great curiosity and enthusiasm during our discussions and investigations.

In literacy, we focused on developing our early writing skills through meaningful purposes for writing. We learned how to write a letter and explored the important features needed, including greetings, questions, and endings. The children also practised writing lists and constructing simple questions using key question words.

Our creative learning this half term has been especially exciting. In art and DT, the children designed and created their own sculptures. They learned how to build structures using silver foil, carefully covered them with papier mâché, and finally painted and decorated their creations. It was wonderful to watch the children return to their models with such enthusiasm, perseverance, and pride as they refined and completed their work.

In our personal, social, and emotional learning, we explored relationships, friendships, and ways to be a kind and supportive friend. We also practised coping techniques and calming strategies, which the children have been applying thoughtfully within the classroom environment.

In maths, we have been deep diving into number bonds and developing confidence with number relationships and mental recall. The children have made fantastic progress in their understanding and fluency.

As we begin to look towards our final term together, we are excited to continue supporting the children as they grow in confidence and prepare for their transition into Year 1. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved this half term and look forward to the exciting learning still to come.



Rose Class - Mrs Liggins, Miss Daley and Miss Akhtar

Where has this half term gone? The last few weeks have been packed full of amazing fun and learning activities. The children have embraced the challenges and have shown great perseverance and determination in all their learning this half term.

In English this half term, we have learnt about different genres of writing and produced some great pieces of writing. We started with a persuasive advert, where we learnt how to organise our writing and use persuasive language to encourage people to visit ancient Egypt. The children really enjoyed this and used their previous learning about ancient Egypt to add further detail to their writing. We have also just completed a balanced argument based on the question, 'Should Children Wear School Uniform to School?'

In maths, we continued our learning on fractions, focussing on fractions of amounts. We have also learnt about money, learning to add and subtract amounts and work out what change is needed. We are currently learning to tell the time on analogue and digital clocks, as well as finding durations and solving problems related to time.

In geography, we have been learning about different settlements, identifying the differences and relating these to our own locality, Chesham. We have enjoyed looking at different maps of the local area and finding the school and other known places in Chesham. In DT, we have started our unit on building a castle. We have designed our own castles, thinking about who they will be for and what features we will have. The children are excited to build their models using a range of packaging and 3D shape nets.

We enjoyed finding out about plants in our science unit. We investigated the different parts of a plant and their functions, discovered how water moves within the plant and then found out about pollination and seed dispersal. We also conducted an experiment over time to find out what a plant needs to grow successfully. Next term, we will explore light.



In PE, the children have been busy preparing for sports day and practising their athletic skills. We also had a fabulous time at Chiltern Hills Academy last week at the tennis festival. We completed a range of tennis-based activities and showed great sportsmanship and teamwork throughout. What a great half term we have had. The children have worked incredibly hard and continue to demonstrate how amazing they are. Keep up the good work Year 3.



Maple Class – Miss Race and Mrs Weedon

This half term has flown by and Year 4 have once again embraced every challenge and opportunity with enthusiasm. The children have continued to show a positive attitude towards their learning and have impressed us with their hard work and determination across the curriculum. It has been lovely to see their confidence continue to grow as we move closer towards the end of the year.

In English, we have continued to explore different styles of writing. The children produced informative explanation texts about volcanoes, where they learnt how to organise information clearly and use subject-specific vocabulary effectively. We also created diary entries inspired by a short video clip, which gave the children the chance to develop their descriptive language and write thoughtfully from a character's perspective. In Maths, our focus has been on decimals and money. The children have been developing their understanding of decimal numbers and learning how to apply this knowledge when solving problems involving money.

In Science, we have been learning about living things and their habitats. The children explored a range of habitats and discovered how living things are adapted to survive in different environments. They also enjoyed using classification keys to identify and group organisms based on their features. The class showed great curiosity during discussions and investigations throughout the topic. In Geography, we have been learning about Europe and exploring the many similarities and differences between countries across the continent. The children have practised using maps to locate different places and have enjoyed learning about European landmarks, climates and cultures.

In Art, we have been experimenting with pattern and colour through a range of creative activities. The children especially enjoyed working with oil pastels and produced some fantastic pieces of artwork using different blending and shading techniques. It has been wonderful to see such creativity and individuality in their work. In Computing, the children were introduced to HTML and learnt about how websites are created. They explored different tags and commands and enjoyed seeing how simple code can be used to build webpages. The children approached this topic with great excitement and curiosity.

We have also continued our gardening sessions with Sam from the Country Trust. The children always look forward to these sessions and have enjoyed learning more about plants, nature and caring for the environment. We are all very excited about our upcoming farm trip next half term. Another highlight of the half term was our visit to Chiltern Hills Academy for Diamond Cricket. The children had a fantastic time taking part and demonstrated excellent teamwork, encouragement and sportsmanship throughout the event. We are incredibly proud of everything the children have achieved this half term and are looking forward to a fun and successful final half term in Year 4!



Cherry Class – Mrs Twyman and Miss Walker

Year 5 blinked and this half term is now at the end and we have been super busy bees.

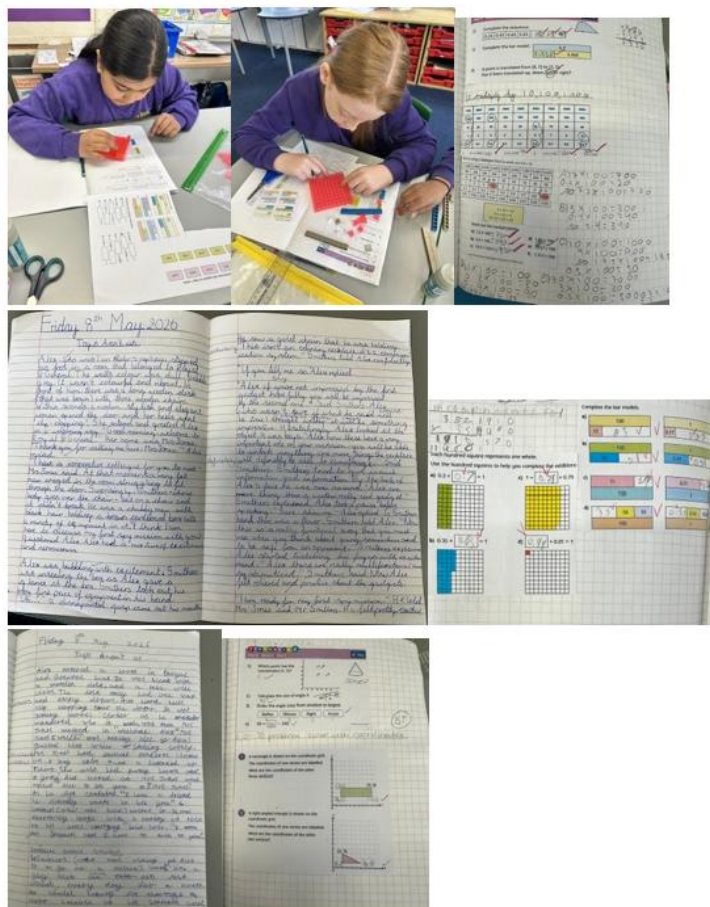
In English, we have become MI6 agents and immersed ourselves in the world of Alex Rider; Stormbreaker. In Reading lessons, we have been continuing our VIPERS skills and concentrating on the longer answers that require a more thought and providing reasons for this. We have really worked hard to look deeper into the text and analyse how the author uses emotive language and speech to move the storyline along. Having a 6 week term has allowed us to concentrate on one text which we have really enjoyed linking to our writing. Throughout this half term, we have become authors to two different styles of writing while concentrating on entertaining our audience with both; creating our own chapter of 'Toys Aren't Us' and a diary entry based on 'Deep Water'. We have been following a new writing process in planning, writing a first draft, editing and revising and then finally publishing which we have really enjoyed.

"I really like how i don't have to keep flipping pages to see what I have written and planned" Bailey.

"I like knowing what part of process we are on every lesson" Daisy

"I have liked having a success criteria that we can tick off against when we have used it in our writing" - Eddy.

This half term in Maths we have been looking at position and direction, shape and decimals. We have had fun reading and plotting coordinates and then using these to translate shapes. When working with decimals, we have been using written methods of subtraction and addition working with the same and different amounts of decimal places. For example $6.2 + 2.6$ and $3.68 + 1.2$. We have really enjoyed using Gattegno charts for multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1000. Did you know we don't just add or take away zeros? We need to move the place value of the digits creating the number!



Oak Class – Mr O’Callaghan and Miss Sample

In science this term, we have been finding out about the classification of living things. We began by using liquorice allsorts to construct a classification key, then used this knowledge to classify different types of animals. We recapped our work in Year 4 on the acronym MRS GREN to remind ourselves of the requirements of living things, before turning our attention to the kingdoms of life and the work of Carl Linnaeus. This led to us designing our own creatures and placing them on the Linnaean classification scale. After half term, we will conduct an experiment using fungi and mould, before starting our final science unit of Year 6, ‘Looking after our environment’.

We enjoyed our music unit this half term where we looked at how music is used in film. We thought about how different sounds and instruments create different emotions and how these are used to trigger different responses when watching something on the big screen. We then used tuned and untuned instruments to produce our own soundtrack to a variety of scenes, working within groups to write symbols to represent these sounds. We also got to enjoy Wallace and Gromit ‘A Close Shave’ as we played along to different, emotive scenes!



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

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our recent school disco – it was a fantastic evening, and we're delighted to share that we raised an amazing £378.48! The children had a brilliant time, and we really appreciate all the help from volunteers who made it such a success.

We're now looking ahead to the upcoming carnival and are very excited to be involved. If you're able to help with making props, decorations, or attending on the day, we would love your support – every little bit helps!

We're also busy preparing for our Summer Fayre on Saturday 27th June, and we can't wait for another fun-filled community event.

Thank you for your continued support ❤️



Sports Day

Another successful Sports Day at Ivingswood. Well done to everyone you took part. You were all fantastic. Thank you to all the parents, carers, friends and family members that joined us to cheer the children on. It would not be as much fun without you all. The children have jumped, run, bounced, thrown and skipped their way through an exciting morning of sport and physical activity. We saw excellent javelin and beanbag throwing, amazing races with bats and balls or eggs and spoons and brilliant teamwork. And what's more, the weather was kind to us!

And the winner is!!!

....going to be announced after half-term.

Now to look forward to next year – you'd better start preparing now!



Wraparound Care

To support our school community, we have been working hard to secure after school care for those that need it. We have listened to parent surveys and are delighted to work alongside Premier Education to provide this service for us.

We will continue to run an Ivingswood staffed breakfast club from 8am each day and from September, a wraparound club. This will replace the staff run after school clubs. All the details were emailed separately and can be found on our school website.

Premier Education are honoured to be able to provide the wraparound care at your school.

Our aim is to deliver a top quality, Ofsted registered provision, with a range of stimulating activities in a safe, secure and fun environment, providing an outstanding service for busy parents.

Parents can relax knowing their children are in safe hands as all staff have experience working with primary school children, have been DBS checked, and hold Paediatric First Aid and Safeguarding certificates.

Wraparound care sessions are open to children from Reception to Year 6, with no deposit or registration fee required. You can make Ad-hoc bookings, or book multiple session over a half term period. Healthy snacks are provided, with specific dietary requirements also being catered for.

Ivingswood Academy

After School options:

3:15-5:30pm = £9.50

3:15-4:15pm = £4.50

4:15-5:30pm = £5.00

Booking will be available online
from July 2026

Contact us at:

✉ office-11@premier-education.com

☎ 01296 620097

Ofsted Registration Number: TBC



Diary Dates

Friday 22 nd May – Friday 29 th May	Half term – school closed
WB Monday 1 st June	Year 4 Multiplication Check
WB Monday 8 th June	Phonics Assessments
Friday 12 th June	Non-uniform – bottles and sweets for the Summer Fayre
Saturday 13 th June	Chesham Carnival
WB 15 th June	Assessment Week
Friday 19 th June	Year 5 Class Assembly 9am
Monday 22 nd June	Year 4 Farm Visit
Friday 26 th June	Reception Class Assembly 9am
Saturday 27 th June	Summer Fayre
Friday 3 rd July	Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Music Concert
Monday 6 th July	Year 5 – Athletics at Chiltern Hills Academy
Monday 6 th July	Sports Week
Tuesday 7 th July	Transition Day
Thursday 9 th July	School reports out
Friday 10 th July	School Closed INSET DAY
Tuesday 21 st July	Year 6 Party Day!
Wednesday 23 rd July	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly 9am Nursery Stay and Play End of term – Finish 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.

BUCKS COUNTY SHOW

Thursday 27th August 2026

SCHOOL OFFER!



FREE Child Tickets!

You can book entry tickets online and take advantage of our **FREE child ticket** offer. Get up to 3 FREE child tickets (up to 16yrs) with each full paying Adult or Over 65 ticket. To redeem, simply use code **SCHOOL26** at checkout.

Visit www.buckscountyshow.co.uk/tickets or scan the QR code



T&Cs: Offer valid online only. Must be booked using the code SCHOOL26. Not valid with the use of any other offers. Offer ends midnight 26.08.26