Volume 1: October 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.



Welcome to our Art Exhibition

Our theme this year is 'Nature'

Artists:

Nursery – Henri Matisse
Reception – Giuseppe Arcimboldo
Year 1 and 2 – Andy Goldworthy
Year 3 – Yoyoi Kusama
Year 4 – Orla Keily
Year 5 – Alma Thomas
Year 6 – Angela Harding

Wow! What a fantastic end to our first half-term the art exhibition was. We adapted the artist of the half-term concept to include all classes and a theme so the children could enjoy having time to see other artists and the progression of skills throughout the school.

When the children entered the set up hall with the art on display, they made comments like, '***WOW, it's like a museum, look at all the colours, I like those pieces!'***

I think you can agree we have some talented, creative children. It was great to see so many of you come and support the children – 90% of our parents and carers attended on Thursday afternoon making this our best attended event to date!

I hope you all have a restful, safe half-term and I look forward to seeing you all on Monday 2nd November

Mrs C Flynn
Head of School

Catkin Class - Miss Rose, Mrs Woolnough and Mrs Zain

Nursery have welcomed 5 new children this term, all the children have now settled in and are getting to grips with the rules and routines of Nursery life. We have been very fortunate to have such great weather all term and have made the most of being outside in the sunshine and enjoying the garden. Another Nursery resident enjoying the garden is Derek the cheeky squirrel, digging up every flowerpot and causing havoc with our newly panted bulbs and shrubs! The children love to watch out for signs of nature in the garden, dewy spider webs early in the morning, worm casts in the lawn, slug and snail trails on the rockery as well as feathers from the many birds we see.

This term the children have all been learning about themselves and sharing what they like, and who is in their family. They have painted some wonderful self-portraits and shared with others what they like to eat and what their favourite toy is. We continue to build the basics of self-care and awareness, speech and language and gross and fine motor control, through fun and varied activities every day. These building blocks are the foundation of all the learning the children will need throughout their school years.

The children are now doing PE in the hall and are well practiced in taking their shoes and socks off, although getting them back on requires a bit more time! Children are becoming more confident at speaking in a small group and learning to listen to others. Our funky fingers fine motor activities are out each morning, and a particular favourite is our new tweezers game. Scribble Club started last week, and the children are loving creating on a large scale and having their very own pencil case full of crayons and pencils. Scissors are popular and the children are learning to safely make snips and cut along lines. Painting is a firm favourite, and we have had some lovely pictures this week, although they sometimes get covered up with an extra layer of paint, so you may only see a blue expanse... but quite often there is more hiding underneath!

Hopefully your children are all enjoying the items they choose from the library each week. If there is anything you would like to take home, please let us know, As well as a large choice of books, we have practice packs for fine motor skills, toilet training, shapes, numbers, scissor skills, and much more. Just ask us, or you may be fortunate enough to get one of the electric guitars the children are so keen on! 😂

This week we have been learning about how to keep our teeth healthy, the children had great fun cleaning our giant teeth and loved our story about *Alan's Big Scary Teeth.* The children have also enjoyed recreating snails, inspired by The Snail by Henri Matisse ready for our art exhibition.

Next term our theme is "Let's celebrate" where we will be exploring how we all celebrate events and festivals. Wishing you all a restful half term.








Snowdrop – Mrs McKenzie and Miss Hayes

This half term, our theme has been What Makes Me, Me, and it has been a lovely way to welcome the children into Reception and get to know each of them as the unique little people they are. We shared wonderful stories such as Mixed, Ruby's Worry, Stanley Stick and many others, which inspired our learning across the curriculum.

The children started by exploring what makes them special, inside and out. They named their body parts, talked about how we are similar and different, and created some beautiful self-portraits. They went on to talk about their favourite things, their families and their homes, and to explore their school and local community. Along the way they investigated their five senses through sound walks, tasting activities and lots of hands-on exploring.

In literacy and phonics, the children are working hard on holding their pencils with a tripod grip and practise writing their names every day. In phonics, we have been through the Set 1 sounds. The children are practising Fred Talk and learning to hear the sounds in simple CVC words and blend them together.

In our personal, social and emotional learning, the children have settled beautifully into new routines and made new friendships. We talk about our emotions every day and about what we can do to help ourselves feel better when big feelings arrive. We also talked about how all families are different, and how that is something to celebrate.

In maths, the children have been matching, sorting and comparing objects, and exploring size, weight and capacity. They have had great fun copying and creating their own patterns and have begun to explore the numbers 1, 2 and 3, including recognising small amounts at a glance and finding one more and one less.

Our creative learning has included colour mixing, self-portraits and exploring sound through singing, body percussion, instruments and the sounds around us. Our autumn walk was a real highlight, and the children loved spotting signs of the changing season.

The children went to their first whole school assembly to celebrate Harvest and did very well. We are learning to work as a team and to look after our classroom and resources. In class, we use the phrase "Choose it, use it, put it away". If you'd like to carry this on at home, you might find it helpful to use the same phrase. Small tidying jobs work well too, such as putting toys back in their box, matching socks or helping to set the table. Children often love hearing exactly what they did well ("You put all the books back on the shelf, that was really helpful!"), and it can help them feel really proud of looking after their space.

We are incredibly proud of how well the children have settled into school life and of everything they have achieved in such a short time. We look forward to the exciting learning still to come next half term.





Bluebella - Mrs Bacon , Mrs Gomm, Mrs Evans and Miss Pervaiz

We've settled in beautifully this half-term, and it's been a joy to watch the children make themselves at home in their new environment. It's been a busy, happy start to the year!

In English we've been lost in the world of traditional tales. We've met Goldilocks, the Three Billy Goats Gruff, Little Red Riding Hood and the Gingerbread Man, and now we're writing our very own traditional tales. We can't wait to share them!

Our art has been inspired by Andy Goldsworthy. We've looked closely at his sculptures and the natural materials he uses, then had a go ourselves. We made some fabulous clay sculptures, and had lots of practice making spirals. We also took our learning outdoors to create paths, wands and little people from sticks and leaves. Our favourite was a big collaborative spiral, made together in Goldsworthy's style.

In geography we headed out into the local area on a field trip. We spotted human-made features like the shops and the church, and physical features like the view of the Chiltern Hills and the woodlands nearby. Back in class, we drew our own maps using landmarks to show what we'd seen. It was lovely to see the children connecting their learning to the world on their doorstep.

Computing has been great fun. In our "What is a computer?" unit we've been learning about input and output devices: the screen, mouse, keyboard and printer. We even went on a technology safari around school, and were amazed at how many computers we found. They were hiding in the fire alarm, the dishwasher and the photocopier, as well as the laptops and tablets we expected! We also made our own laptops, and some of them were very impressive.

Science has been a real highlight. We've been learning about life cycles, and our playdough butterflies were a big hit. We used our observation and comparison skills to explore how the lives of humans, butterflies, frogs and chickens are similar and different. We've been thinking just like real scientists!

A big well done, too, to everyone reading at home. The children have been delighted by the house points they've earned for reading every day, and your support really does make a difference.

Thank you, as always. We're looking forward to another busy half-term ahead!



Rose Class - Mrs Liggins, Miss Daley and Mrs Weedon

It has been an action-packed start to Year 3. The children have settled in well and are getting to grips with new routines and learning.
In maths, we have been focussing on place value, working with numbers up to 1000. We have been learning how to add and subtract in different ways, using place value charts, number lines and base ten.
In English, we have already completed two pieces of writing. Our first was a narrative based on the story 'Stone Age Boy'. We learnt how to use descriptive language to enhance our writing and how to show speech within a story using inverted commas. We really enjoyed exploring the characters and how they felt and what they would say and do. We then moved onto learn how to write clear, concise and accurate instructions. We completed the unit by writing instructions on 'How to Get Ready to Go Home'.
Our science unit this half term has been 'Scientific Enquiry'. We have carried out investigations and thought carefully about how to write an equipment list, method and prediction. We made careful observations and recorded our results using tables and a bar graph. Finally, we looked at our results and drew conclusions, using evidence from our experiments and referring back to our predictions.
In history, we have really enjoyed exploring life in The Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. As part of our learning, we visited The Chiltern Open Air Museum, where we travelled back in time and delved into the life of Stone Age people. We learnt how to make fire, build a shelter, throw a spear when hunting for animals and how they draw pictures using charcoal. In the afternoon, we even made our own flint tools. What a fabulous day.
This half term the children have been learning about Yayoi Kusama and creating a selection of art inspired by her artwork. We loved being able to showcase our artwork to the rest of the school and parents and carers. Making the pumpkins was messy but fun and the children all created some great examples. Thank you to everyone who came to our art exhibition.
We have also been working hard on our recorder playing in preparation for our music assembly in December – keep an eye out for the invitation to this. In PE, the children have been creating dances related to 'Extreme Earth' and learning a range of games skills through a variety of sports.
We are all looking forward to next half term to continue our learning journey. We wish you a restful half term and will see you ready for Autumn 2.







Maple Class – Miss Adams and Miss Akhtar

This half term has been wonderful in Year 4! It has been a privilege to see the children grow in confidence and develop their skills across the curriculum.

In maths, we have explored place value, rounding, Roman numerals, addition and subtraction strategies, and area. Although some concepts have been challenging, I am very proud of the fluency the children are developing, particularly through regular times table practice in preparation for next year's MTC check.
In Reading, we have been developing our VIPERS skills through *How to Train Your Dragon* by Cressida Cowell, with a particular focus on structuring inference and explanation answers. While this can be challenging, the children are making great progress. I am also very proud of the improvements in the standard and presentation of their work since the start of the year.

In Writing, we have used the same text to write a narrative from Hiccup's perspective, developing our use of expanded noun phrases, prepositional phrases and varied sentence structures. We are now creating non-chronological reports about dragons we have designed, learning how to organise information and use descriptive and technical language. We even created our own dragon trading cards!

In Art, we explored Orla Kiely's repeated patterns, creating prints using recycled materials. In PE, we developed our gymnastics skills, focusing on balances, sequences and teamwork. Science saw us investigate the digestive system, teeth and food chains, while Geography explored UK counties, culture and map skills. In Computing, we used Scratch to code our own games and debug our programmes.

A highlight was our trip to Winchester Wood with the Chiltern Rangers, where we planted cowslips and cleared vegetation to help create a thriving habitat for the Duke of Burgundy butterfly. The children worked brilliantly outdoors and thoroughly enjoyed the experience!

I am incredibly proud of all the children's hard work and progress this half term. Wishing you all a restful half term, and I look forward to another exciting cycle of learning!



Cherry Class – Miss Mclean and Miss Jacobs

What an exciting and busy first half term it has been for Cherry Class! The children have settled into Year 5 and have embraced the many challenges and opportunities that have come their way. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm for learning, their growing confidence and the curiosity they have shown across the curriculum. We have certainly packed a lot into our first few weeks together!

In English, we have been exploring the action-packed novel *Stormbreaker* by Anthony Horowitz, following the adventures of Alex Rider. The children have used the story as inspiration to write diary entries and narratives, with a particular focus on building suspense and keeping the reader hooked from beginning to end. They have been developing their descriptive language, experimenting with sentence structures and learning how to create tension to make their writing exciting and engaging.

In Maths, we have been strengthening our understanding of place value, addition and subtraction. The children have been developing their confidence when rounding numbers using the CUBA method and have been working hard to tackle increasingly challenging multi-step problems. We have focused on identifying the different parts of a problem and breaking these down into manageable steps, helping the children to develop their mathematical reasoning and problem-solving skills.

In Reading, we have continued to develop our VIPERS skills through our study of *Stormbreaker*. The children have been answering a range of comprehension questions, exploring the text in greater depth and thinking carefully about the author's choices. We have particularly focused on structuring our answers to inference and explanation questions, ensuring that we support our ideas with evidence from the text and explain our thinking clearly.

In Science, we have been exploring the fascinating topic of Space and the planets. The children have learnt about how the Earth orbits the Sun and have investigated the different phases of the Moon. We have also begun exploring time zones and how they were created, which sparked lots of interesting discussions and even more questions! It has been fantastic to see the children's curiosity grow as they develop their understanding of our planet and its place in the Solar System.

In Geography, our focus has been on our *Blue Planet*, exploring how humans use rivers and oceans and learning about the importance of these natural resources. The children have investigated the water cycle and considered the impact human activity has had on our oceans. One of our practical activities involved creating our own water cycle bags, allowing us to observe the process in action and bring our learning to life. The children have shown great interest in understanding how we can better protect our planet and its precious environments.

In Art, we have been studying the artist Alma Thomas and exploring how she used colour, pattern and texture to create her vibrant abstract paintings. The children have looked closely at the *Alma Stripe*, experimented with the impasto technique and explored how different materials can be used to create texture. They have then used these techniques and Alma Thomas's distinctive style as inspiration for their own artwork. It has been lovely to see the children's creativity shine through as they developed their own designs and produced unique pieces of art.

We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, effort and creativity Cherry Class have shown throughout this first half term. The children have worked hard, embraced new challenges and asked some fantastic questions along the way. We hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved half-term break, and we look forward to another exciting and successful half term of learning together!

Oak Class – Mr O'Callaghan and Miss Sample

The beginning of the year was brilliant, exciting and memorable. The children have started their Year 6 journey with the utmost dignity and dedication. There have been challenging topics to start the year off.

In Maths, we have been focusing on Place Value and working with numbers up to 1,000,000 and diving deep into Multiplication and Division focusing on the long division method, short division method and the column multiplication method.

In English, the children have loved reading, Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo and they created fabulous narratives based on this text. They had to imagine being lost at sea and think about how they could be saved. Marking their work was an absolute pleasure, the children used a range of emotive and descriptive language. To end the half term, we have been reading the poem The Dreadful Menace. Our end goal for this writing unit is to create a poem based on 'My Place' that they are researching with Mrs Twyman in Geography. There task is to use a range of writing techniques such as, personification, hyperbole, alliteration, similes, metaphors and onomatopoeia. Get the children to tell you the definitions as they are including them in their writing every day.

We have had the pleasure of being the first-year group to complete our Outdoor Learning Half Term. On a Friday afternoon, Mr O, Miss Sample and Year 6 have been entering the Outdoor Learning area looking at the different habitats, plants and creatures that live there. The children were amazing and have loved singing the campfire songs as well to end the sessions!

A special memory was going to Great Kingshill CE Combined School to play alongside our other Kings Education Trust School friends, in a Rounders Tournament. The children behaved admirably and other members of staff from other schools commented how brilliant our children were.

I am so excited to continue my journey with your lovely children and cannot wait to move on to our next Writing Topic 'Holes' by Louis Sachar and eventually go on our Residential Trip in New Year!

Thank you to the Parents and Carers who attended our Artist of the Half Term, it was great to be able to share the work Year 6 completed with Mrs Flynn this half term. We wish you a wonderful break. Stay safe, be kind and have fun! We look forward to seeing you in Autumn 2!

PTA News

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!

This term has been a quiet one for the PTA…. Ready for a busy half term next! We will be holding our Autumn disco on 12th November, and our Christmas Fayre on 27th November! Our Fayre will be held in the school hall straight from school. More details coming soon!

On 8th December, we will be out with the Rotary Santa Float around the local area - please let us know if you would be interested in walking with us or pop out and say hello whilst we are out and about!

Chiltern League – Football

This half term our focus has been football. We played 3 matches after school against Thomas Harding, Chartridge and Ley Hill. We played brilliantly but were unable to secure a win. At the finals afternoon, we played Hawridge and Cholesbury, Waterside and Our Lady's. Unfortunately, we did not come away with a trophy, but we are proud of all the boys who represented our school in any of our football matches. We scored some great goals during these matches and demonstrated what good defending and attacking looks like. The boys showed great sportsmanship and teamwork throughout. Well done! Onto the netball now!



Non-Uniform Day – Friday 7th November

On Friday 6th 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.

Chesham Rotary Pond Project

We are delighted to share some exciting news about our outdoor learning environment. Our school has secured funding to give our pond area a new lease of life! This funding will allow us to restore and develop a safe, accessible pond area that supports biodiversity and enriches our curriculum.
Our new pond will support science, outdoor learning, and environmental stewardship across all year groups. It will provide a space for pond dipping, wildlife observation, and calm reflection.
We will be needing some support with this project as much groundwork needs to be done. Please volunteer if you can. We will notify you of dates via our text / email service.
Thank you in advance for your support with this.

Enrichment

Enrichment in schools means activities beyond normal lessons that help children build confidence, skills, interests and wellbeing. Enrichment is so important to the pupils of Ivingswood Academy because it give our children opportunities outside their usual classroom learning to explore new interests and develop wider life skills. These opportunities are given in many ways and include: trips, working with Chiltern Rangers, music lessons and concerts, outdoor learning, Year 3 Connect project, year 4 Country Trust project, Young Voices, residentials, links with Hope Church, Chesham Carnival, theme weeks (keeping safe, science, anti-bullying, careers, money, writing weeks), visitors, assemblies, Chiltern League, sporting events at Chiltern Hill Academy, Cricket coaching, charity fundraising and pupil leadership opportunities.
As you can see, we already have a fantastic range of opportunities for our pupils to experience. However, after a recent audit of our offerings, we believe that we could give all our pupils further experiences throughout the school year. All pupils will be included and will be able to make a choice of 5 activities they wish to try. School Council and our Head Pupils were tasked with speaking to their classes to discuss what opportunities they would like to have. Staff have been working hard to prepare the activity they will run for our pupils, and I am very grateful to them for their efforts. After the half-term, children will complete a simple online survey to select their choices for the rest of the academic year. They will be encouraged to try new things and make selections based on their interests rather than what their friends are doing. We hope that all the staff and children enjoy these sessions and that it leads to a future interest in them – whether that be whilst they are at Ivingswood, their secondary school or in their adult life.
Watch out for updates on our social media pages to see the children enjoying their enrichment sessions.

Healthy Eating

Unfortunately, we have seen an increase in the amount of high sugar and high fat foods appearing daily in the lunchboxes of our children. It is not necessary to give them chocolate treats every day. A nutritious school lunch helps children learn better, behave more calmly, and stay energised throughout the day, making it essential for both their health and academic success. Children need a balance of proteins, carbohydrates, dairy, fruit and vegetables to lead a healthy lifestyle now and in future life.

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

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

'Being Ready' for learning

We expect our young people to come to school following our school rules of:
Be Safe, Be Ready and Be Respectful.
'**Being Ready'** means being ready for learning and prepared for the day ahead. This means arriving to school BEFORE 8.55am, completing their morning task BEFORE 9am, having their reading/phonics book and reading log EVERY DAY, having their pencils/pens ready for their learning, coming to school in PE kit on PE days following class routines and rules.

The children do need your support for this. When you are late – your child/ren and the class are disrupted and they often miss key information for the day. You need to make sure they have what they need, that they have had breakfast, you have packed or ordered their lunch.

Join our Local Academy Committee (LAC)

Are you passionate about our school community? Do you want to play a direct role in shaping the direction and future success of our school? We are currently looking for enthusiastic, dedicated parents to join our school governing body known as LAC.
What Does the Governing Body Do?
Our Local Academy Committee work as a team to:

- Shape the Vision: Share the long-term aims, values, and strategic direction of the school.
- Support and Challenge: Act as a "critical friend" to the leadership team, celebrating successes and asking the right questions to maintain high standards.

You do not need to be an expert in education, finance, or law to be a brilliant committee member. We value diverse perspectives and are looking for parents from all backgrounds who can bring life experience, commitment, and a fresh pair of eyes. Full training and ongoing support will be provided, so you will never be left to figure things out on your own. Commitment generally involves attending one evening meetings per term, alongside reading preparation and occasional school visits.
If you are interested in making a lasting impact or simply want an informal chat to find out what is involved, please contact Jo Withers (Chair of LAC) on Jo.Withers@ivingswoodacademy.org Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our school community.

Diary Dates

Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October	Half-term
WB 1st November	Careers Week
Thursday 5th November	EYFS Open morning for Reception Sep 2027
Friday 6th November	Non-uniform day – donations for the Christmas Fayre
Monday 9th November	Reception Class – Sports event at Chiltern Hills Academy
Thursday 12th November	PTA Disco
Friday 13th November	Children in Need – non-uniform day £1 donation
WB 16th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Wednesday 18th November	Phonics open morning 9am
Thursday 19th November	Year 5 trip to Science museum
Friday 20th November	Year 6 Class Assembly 9am
Friday 27th November	Christmas Fayre 3.15-4.45pm
WB 30th November	Assessment Week
Friday 4th December	INSET Day – school closed
Tuesday 8th December	Chesham Rotary Santa Sleigh – volunteers needed
Wednesday 9th December	Christmas lunch
Friday 11th December	Christmas Jumper Day - £1 donation for Save the Children
Friday 11th December	Year 3 and Year 6 Music Concert 2.30pm
Monday 14th December	Reception and KS1 – Nativity – Time TBC
Tuesday 15th December	Reception and KS1 – Nativity – Time TBC
Thursday 17th December	Whole school trip to the Elgiva Chesham
Friday 18th December	End of term – 1.15pm finish

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.

When your class has their outdoor learning sessions, you will need to bring in a change of clothes and suitable footwear. Your class teacher will notify you of when this I needed.

End of Year expectations

At our recent parents' evening you will have been given a guide for your year group showing what each pupil is expected to be able to demonstrate by the end of this year. In school we work towards these objectives in r daily lessons and provide additional sessions to those who may need it. If your child has poor attendance – either this year or past years, they are likely to have some gaps in their learning. Some children just need a little more practice and time to learn some skills. To help you know how you can support them at home, we have provided you with information. If you missed your appointment, your child will come home with their booklet to share with you. There are many useful websites with learning games for you to share together and further details are also available on our website.

Phonics Morning

We are pleased to announce that due to the popularity of the Maths Open Morning we will be having a Phonics Open Morning.

WHEN? 18th November 2026

WHERE? Our school of course!

WHAT TIME? 9am

A short presentation will take place at 9am about the structure of phonics and how early reading is taught to your child and how you can support them at home.

You will be welcomed into your child's phonics class from 9.15-10am.

Pop the date in your diary and we can't wait to see you.

Helping Our Children Navigate the Digital World Safely

The internet is an incredible tool that offers our children endless opportunities to learn, create, play, and connect. However, the digital landscape moves fast, bringing new risks and challenges alongside its benefits.

You do not need to be a technology expert to keep your child safe online. The most powerful tool you have is **open, regular conversation**. This month, we are focusing on practical ways to build a safer digital environment at home.

Start the Conversation

Simple, everyday chats about what your children are doing online are incredibly valuable. Try asking:

- What is your favourite game or app to use at the moment?
- Who are you talking to when you play online?
- Has anything you've seen online ever made you feel worried, upset, or uncomfortable?

Encourage your child to know that if anything goes wrong, they can always talk to you or a trusted adult at school without the fear of getting into trouble.

Social Media & Messaging Minimum Terms of Service

The minimum legal age to sign up for most social media apps is **13 years old**. This is largely driven by COPPA (Children's Online Privacy Protection Act) data laws, which prohibit platforms from harvesting data on under-13s without parental consent.

App / Platform	Minimum Account Age	App Store Content Rating	What Parents Need to Know
TikTok	**13+**	**12+** (Apple) / **Teen** (Google)	Highly addictive algorithms; high risk of contact from strangers.
Snapchat	**13+**	**12+** (Apple) / **Teen** (Google)	Disappearing messages can encourage risky behaviour or hide cyberbullying.
Instagram	**13+**	**12+** (Apple) / **Teen** (Google)	High pressure regarding body image and curated lifestyles.
WhatsApp	**13+** (UK/EU)	**12+** (Apple) / **Teen** (Google)	Large group chats often feature unfiltered media, cyberbullying, or exclusion.
YouTube	**13+** (With parent mode for younger)	**12+** (Apple) / **Teen** (Google)	Passive auto-play can expose kids to harmful user-generated or AI-generated content.
Roblox	**No minimum** (Parental controls vary)	**12+** (Apple) / **PEGI 7** (Google)	Features open chat rooms and user-generated games; high risk of stranger grooming.
Yubo	**18+**	**17+** (Apple) / **Adult** (Google)	**Formerly for teens, now strictly 18+**; utilizes facial age-estimation verification.

Attendance

As you are aware, attending school every day is important for your child to make good progress in school. Last academic year, several families received fines for taking term time absences. The government set our attendance rules and we follow those expectations. We monitor attendance and offer 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 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 dayof 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.

Attendance letters were sent out this week to those families who have fallen below the expected attendance level.



Home Learning

As we progress through the school year, we want to take a moment to highlight a vital ingredient in your child's academic and personal success: **home learning**.
When school and home work together, children thrive. Research consistently shows that regular home learning not only reinforces what is taught in the classroom but also builds lifelong habits of curiosity, independence, and resilience.
Our home learning policy is available on our school website. Below are the expectations for each year group, each week.
Classes will vary the day they set and expect the home learning returned and class teachers will keep you informed. A lunchtime home learning club will be available to those who require it.

<table>
<tr><th></th><th>Reading</th><th>Times tables / number facts</th><th>Spelling</th><th>Other learning</th></tr>
<tr><td>Reception</td><td rowspan="3">At least 15 minutes per day using Read. Write Inc. books. Parents and carers are to sign reading records daily.</td><td rowspan="5">Children have access to Numbots (KS1) and Times table Rockstars and are expected to use them weekly to develop their speed and accuracy.</td><td rowspan="5">Year 2 – 6 pupils receive weekly spelling and Years 1- 6 have access to 'Spellshed' games to practice these every week.</td><td rowspan="5">KS1 – learning based on wider curriculum.

Year 3 – Alternate weekly English and Maths

Years 4, 5, and 6
Weekly English and Maths

KS2 may also be set 'project' or wider curriculum home learning over a half-term.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Year 1</td></tr>
<tr><td>Year 2</td></tr>
<tr><td>Year 3</td><td rowspan="3">At least 20 minutes per day using school reading books or 'free reader' books as appropriate. Parents and carers are to sign reading records daily.
School staff will sign them weekly.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Year 4</td></tr>
<tr><td>Year 5</td></tr>
<tr><td>Year 6</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
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