

Ibstone CE Primary School Newsletter

Nurture - Inspire - Grow

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Dear Families,

I would like to start by sharing some good news! As you know, Mrs Hartigan joined us as a long term supply teacher in October 2019, I am now delighted to tell you that after a rigorous recruitment process, Mrs Hartigan has been offered and accepted the job as our Year 5/6 teacher! Congratulations Mrs Hartigan, we are so pleased you are officially part of the team!

Distance Learning

Well, its been an odd few weeks with everyone having to adjust to a new 'normal' that doesn't quite feel normal! Thank you all for jumping onboard with Google Classroom and our distance learning offering. Your feedback to the surveys I sent out has been very valuable and I have passed on the feedback to the teachers, it was reassuring that over 95% of those who responded felt we were providing the right amount of work. For those of you who felt it was too much, please do what you can but don't worry if it doesn't get done. For those of you who felt your child needed more, please look at the other activities that have been set in the Whole School & Forest School Classrooms.

It was so lovely to see so many of the children during our Zoom sessions yesterday, we were all excited to be back together, even for just a short time. I will be sending out the Zoom timetable over the holidays so that we can keep in touch with the children and I know that the teachers are enjoying planning their sessions for the children. There will be a regular slot at 6pm on a Tuesday and Thursday for story time with me. Ladybirds, Woodland Class and any younger siblings are welcome to join me on a Tuesday, these will be short picture book stories. Children in Kestrel Class and Osprey Class are welcome to join me on a Thursday at 6pm for a chapter or two of 'Dragons at Crumbling Castle'.

Thank you for taking the time to help your child upload their distance learning, we have all been amazed and very impressed with the work that has been completed at home. We have loved receiving messages from the children and have been impressed with the way they are using Google Classroom to ask questions, develop their knowledge and understanding and keep in touch with their teachers.

What have we been learning this week...

Ladybirds have been enjoying Easter themed learning this week and have been predicting who will help the Easter Bunny save Easter. They have also been writing about where the Easter Bunny might go on holiday (obviously after we are allowed out of lockdown!). In mathematics they have been practising their number formation by writing numbers on paper eggs ready for an egg hunt in their house/garden. They have also been solving some Easter word problems.



Love – Courage – Respect – Community – Perseverance

'Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am'
Philippians 4:13

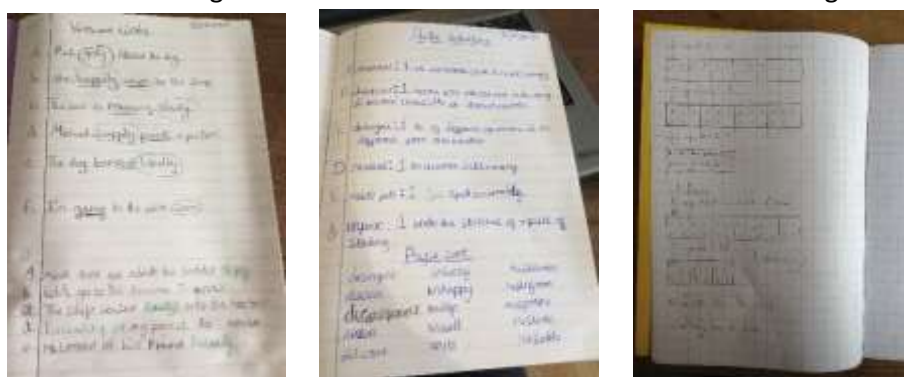


The Ladybirds have also been challenged to make 12 unique Easter mud pies and decorate a new egg for the Easter Bunny!

Woodland Class have continued their Ocean topic by planning and writing non chronological reports about their chosen sea creature, they have also made models, painted or drawn pictures of their sea creature in its habitat. In mathematics they have been counting in groups and using arrays for multiplying. They have also been set an Easter Egg Hunt challenge using their times table knowledge.



Kestrel Class have been learning about verbs, adverbs and prefixes and have produced some wonderful work! In mathematics they have been finding fractions of amounts and have moved on to adding fractions.



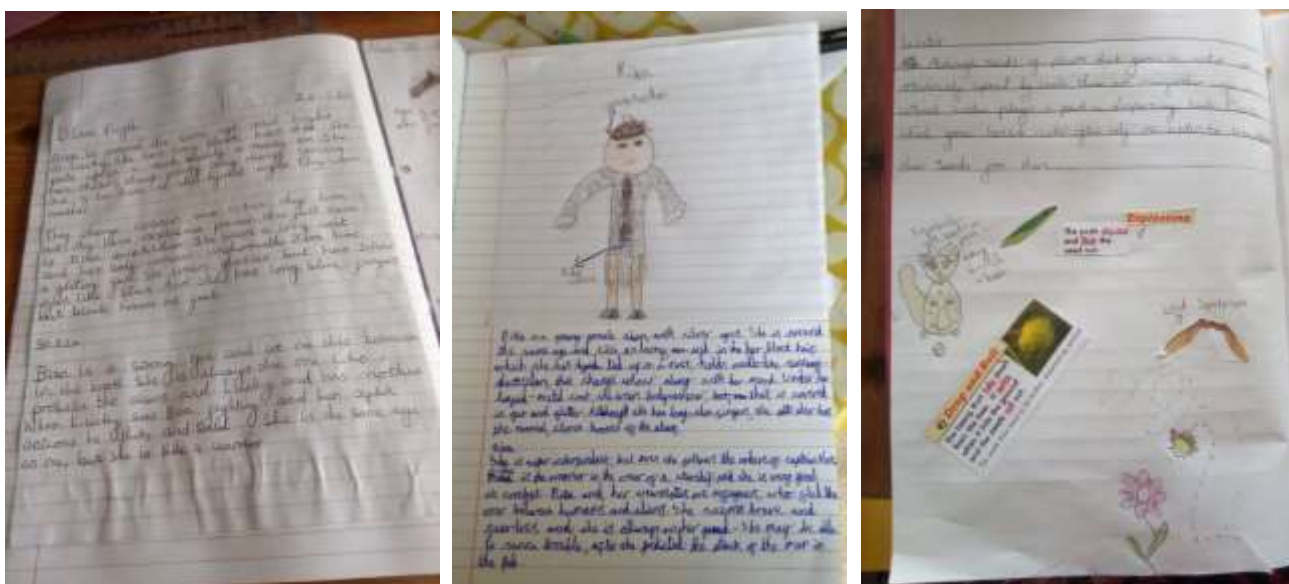
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The children enjoyed being Historians and looking at the artefacts in their books, there was a lot of discussion about what the objects could be and what they were used for. Miss Firth has been very impressed with the observational drawings that have been sent in, well done everyone!



Osprey Class have been enjoying discussing their class reader 'Phoenix', they have been answering questions about each chapter and have written a character profile for Bixa. In mathematics they have had a quick recap of lots of concepts they had been learning about in school from fractions, decimals, place value to multiplication and division (all in one week!). The children have also continued finding out about seed dispersal in science and have produced some amazing work!



Whole School News

Some children have already sent in some of their '50 Things to do before you leave Ibstone' pages, if you have completed any activities, please do share them in the Whole School Classroom. I would love to see some more!



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After Easter we will be having Worship Wednesday which will be posted in the Whole School Classroom, there will be a Bible story, Worship leaders, prayers and a song so please do check in and watch.

Mrs Bridgen is writing a weekly Forest School letter, this will be posted on Monday in the Forest School Classroom, please share any activities you do at home, we would love to see them.

I am aiming to write a weekly newsletter to keep in touch and share the amazing work the children are doing at home.

A huge thank you to the amazing Ibstone team who have been working tirelessly behind the scenes to develop our new 'normal' and thank you to you all for embracing the changes and challenges and ensuring that the children are still accessing school work as best they can. You are all doing an amazing job!

I thought I would share this snippet of my favourite story with you, it has made me smile all morning!

A mouse took a stroll through the deep dark wood.
A fox saw the mouse and two metres away he stood.
"Where are you going to, little brown mouse?"
I hope it's one of the four reasons you can leave your house?"
"It's terribly kind of you to check, Fox, and yes.



I'm going home, saving lives and protecting the NHS."



Stay safe!

Louise Long
Headteacher

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