

Ibstone CE Primary School Newsletter

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Newsletter 17 01.02.18

Congratulations to Mrs Jemma Durkan who has become our new Parent Governor. Mrs Durkan was the only candidate whose seconded application was submitted for the vacancy, therefore it was not necessary to hold an election. We are grateful to Mrs Durkan for making herself available to join the Governing Body, especially at this important time of our school expansion.

After the half term break, we are going to re-introduce Friday Mufti-Day (non-uniform) for the remainder of the Spring term. This will apply to Friday 23rd February, 2nd March, 9th March, 16th March and 23rd March. For wearing Mufti on these five Fridays, we would like a minimum donation to the school fund of £5 per child please. This donation will go to our Primary School Expansion Fund.

Reading is fundamental to learning at school. We subscribe to the Schools' Library Service which means that each term we can order additional project books on loan to support the topics each class is studying. In addition to this service, we have a visit from the Schools' Library Service librarian to come and audit our library. The librarian came into school this week and spent a very productive morning sorting out our library and re-organising the stock into alphabetical order so that we can help to keep it tidy as well as find books more easily. The librarian also brought us a collection of new library books for Key Stage 2. These library books are on display in the Year 3 classroom and available for the Year 3 children to read and borrow.

Thank you to all the parents and grandparents who have offered to help in our school library. Mrs Robertson is dealing with DBS request forms and will be able to set up a rota so that helpers will not need to come in every Friday afternoon. We are very grateful for your support.

A reminder please that all children need trainers preferably or plimsolls to change into for PE lessons. We do a lot of sports skills on the playground so trainers would be preferable for this. A number of children have not had suitable footwear to change into. Please check your child's shoe bag to make sure that they have the correct PE kit and footwear. Please remember that they need a tracksuit for this cold weather.

Expansion Update by Duncan Willcocks

I thought it would be an opportune moment to update you with what is happening around the School's expansion plans.

The original planning application was submitted in mid-October 2017 and included the required supporting information, such as drawings and a traffic management plan. There was some initial feedback from the planners that an objection had been raised by two local entities. Although both are broadly in agreement with the structure they raised concerns over traffic management arrangements.

Crucially the County Highway Authority lodged an objection also relating to traffic management.

Rather than withdraw the planning application, it was agreed that the school would allow the planners to make a decision. Unfortunately planning was subsequently declined 15 December 2017.

*However whilst obviously a setback, there are some **positive** elements:*

1. *The rejection is not in relation to the physical construction itself, in other words **the classroom structure is acceptable.***

2. *The rejection is very specific and relates solely to traffic management. The school/governors and the Diocese have engaged the services of a professional traffic planner (Highways & Transport Consultant). This appointment involves undertaking a traffic survey/assessment, preparation of a transport statement and amending the school travel plan, all for inclusion within the planning application for re-submission.*
3. *During this lull, the appointed contractor and architect have been fully developing the design and programme for the building. Numerous timescales have been firmed up, allowing the contractor to condense the initial build programme.*

It is the Governor' expectation that planning will be re-submitted before the end of February 2018. The hope therefore is that planning is obtained in late April 2018 and an immediate start on site thereafter.

With the current programme of works, completion for September 2018 will be tight. The Governing Board is meeting regularly to monitor progress.

Contingency plans have of course been discussed, but the view very much remains these will be a last resort and are not yet being pursued.

Whilst obviously disappointing not to be on site today, let me assure you an awful lot of work is going on behind the scenes to ensure we deliver the school environment our pupils have been promised.

Further updates will be provided over the coming months.

We have had another very busy week's learning at school. The Kestrel class have been rising to new challenges, showing great willingness and determination, including impressing Mrs Barrett with their organisational skills. This half term, Mrs Barrett has introduced early morning work. This comprises of three or four maths questions which are written up on the board for the children to answer before Collective Worship. So far, the children have settled quickly into their new routine and are successfully answering questions before going into Worship. Well done, Year 3.

In French, the children have been practising classroom instructions. The children were able to consolidate their learning of these phrases and find the phrases in a French word-search. The children have been learning about volume this week. The children were very excited to discover how many Unifix cubes a simple folded paper boat could hold before it sank. The children folded a piece of A4 paper and were able to balance over 200 Unifix cubes in it.



Ivy brought into school the real geodes that she had 'cracked' over the weekend. It was exciting to see these as the children have been creating their own geodes in the classroom.

The Woodland class have been thinking about healthy eating this week. Literacy and science skills have come to the fore as the children thought about different aspects of keeping healthy. The book of 'Oliver's Vegetables' provided a stimulus for finding out more about the vegetables we eat. The children went on to devise plans for a week of healthy eating. With the aid of a spinning wheel the children devised meal ideas then for their writing, the children were challenged to focus on capital letters, full-stops and commas. When the sentences were complete, the children

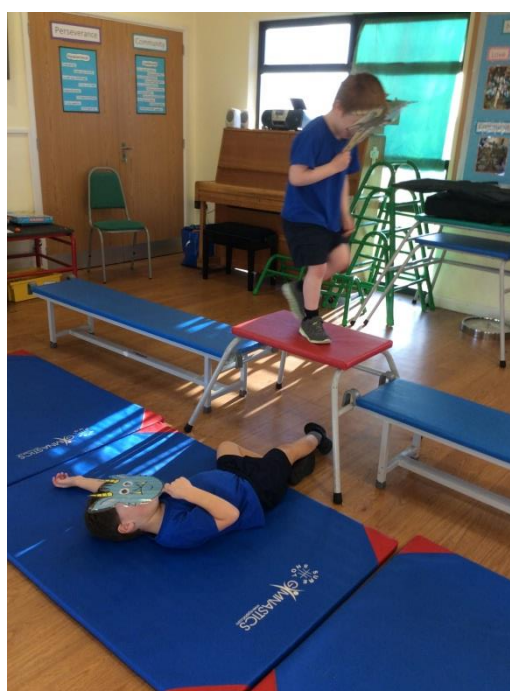
re-drafted their work to include adjectives and connectives to extend their sentences and make them more exciting for the reader.

In maths the children have been working on position and direction this week. This turned out to be quite challenging for the children so they have had to dig deep and persevere. Their determination was rewarded with success! After lots of practical exercises in the playground as well as in the classroom, the children had fun with treasure maps. Working in pairs, the children had to use the instructions: whole turn, half turn, a quarter turn left and a quarter turn right to direct one another to find the pirate's treasure. The children had to follow a course in the playground using the directions too, to help consolidate their learning.



In science, the children looked at their 'rainbow' of vegetables. The children all helped to prepare and cut up the vegetables ready for the soup. The school soon became a 'soup kitchen'. There was enough soup for all the Woodland class and the Kestrel class too. The soup was a great success.

Fairy tales are still at the heart of the learning in the Ladybird class. This week's lead story has been Jack and the Beanstalk. This has given the children plenty of ideas for measuring and associated activities. The children have measured their shoes and measured the giant's shoes. The children have painted an enormous beanstalk to illustrate the story.



The children have been practising recounting the story, trying to sequence it in the correct order as well as thinking about alternative endings to the story.

The children have been estimating too. They have estimated how many beads it will take to fill the giant's hand and to fill their own hands. They have had lots of counting practice as they have counted the beans onto each hand.

Naturally, the children took turns in planting beans too! They have planted beans in a variety of different places and conditions.

The children have also been sharing the story of The Three Billy Goats Gruff, a story which really lends itself to drama and outdoor play. The children have also been using musical instruments to create rhythms.

Maths activities have included counting and sorting.

As always, thank you for all your support.

Ruth Goddard, Headteacher

Headteacher Awards



Diary Dates

New or amended dates inBOLD

Date	Occasion	Who?
January 2018		
February 2018		
2 nd February	After School Café – straight after school	All
7 th February	Perform Workshop – Outer Space	All
9 th February	RSPB Talk from Waddesdon Manor	All
9 th February	EOT 3.15/3.25pm	All
9 th February	Kites Valentine Disco 3.15-4.30pm	All
12 th -16 th February	Kites Holiday Club 8.30am-6pm	All
19 th February	School starts 8.50am	All
20 th February	Parents' Evening – 3.30-6.00pm	All
22 nd February	Parents' Evening – 6-8pm	Woodland Only
March 2018		
1 st March	World Book day – details to follow	All
8 th March	Grandparents' Day – details to follow	Woodland
11 th March	Mothers' Day Service – St Nicholas 10am followed by tea and cake at the school	All
22 nd March	Sport Relief Day – details to follow	All
26 th March	Kites Easter Disco – 3.15-4.30pm	All
27 th March	Easter Bonnet Parade/Easter Egg Hunt – details to follow	All

28 th March	Easter service 9.15am St Nicholas Church	All
28 th March	End of Term 1.30pm	All
29 th March	INSET DAY	
April 2018		
2nd-12th April	Kites Holiday Club	All
16 th April	School Starts 8.50am	All
May 2018		
1 st May	Whole school Photos	All
12th May	***May Fayre Marlow – lots of help needed big fundraising event – details to follow***	All
25 th May	Kites May Disco 3.15-4.30pm	All
25 th May	EOT 3.15/3.30pm	All
29 th May – 1 st June	Kites Holiday Club	All
June 2018		
7 th June	Sports day 1pm	All
14 th June	Reserve sports Day	All
15 th June	INSET Day	All
July 2018		
6 th July	School Reports	All
6 th July	The Big Sing – Details to follow	
12 th July	School Trip – details to follow	All
18 th July	Opera First Performance 6pm – details to follow	
23 rd July	Kites Summer Disco 3.15-4.30pm	All
24 th July	Summer Celebration Service 9.30am	All
24 th July	EOT 1.30pm	All
25 th July	Kites Holiday Club Starts	All