



Icknield Infants'

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



September 2026

• BRAVE

✦ CURIOUS

◆ TEAMWORK

• FOCUS

A WORD FROM MRS SQUIRES

A very warm welcome back to all our Icknield families. It has been wonderful to chat to so many of you this week and hear snippets of the time you have spent with your loved ones this summer. As you will be aware, the children have enjoyed a flexible timetable this week, where teachers have focused on embedding school values, explaining about our Learning Powers, rehearsing routines such as lining up, sitting in assembly and tidying, as well as completing welcoming tasks such as their self-portraits and some creative tasks. This has helped the children to settle into their classrooms and with their new adults without too much pressure as they adapt to lots of change. It has been a calm, purposeful week at school. Children in Key Stage One will begin their phonics and other taught sessions from Wednesday next week. Children in the Early Years will begin from Monday 14th September.

Next week, we will be welcoming two new additions to school – two “class attendance” bears. These bears will be given to the class in KS1 and that in EYFS who have the highest collective attendance from the previous week. The bears come with clothes and accessories for the children to play with, plus a book to share their adventures together. We will be asking children to submit suggestions for their names next week and will introduce them formally very soon.

As always, you will find me outside the nursery garden every morning at drop off, so if you would like to chat, ask a question, or provide informal feedback (positive or otherwise), do pop over and see me. We strive to work in close partnership with our families and your thoughts are always important to us. I wish you all a wonderful weekend – see you bright and early on Monday morning!

THIS WEEK AT ICKNIELD



STAFFING NEWS

From the beginning of this term, we have said goodbye to the lovely Mrs Praxner. After ten wonderful years at the school, Mrs Praxner felt she would now be better suited to an admin role and has gone on to work in another school in the school office. We will miss her and wish her all the very best in her new career.

This week we have welcomed Mrs Bunyan, our new SENCo. We have also welcomed Mrs Rashid, our new Squirrel teacher, plus two 1:1 SEND teaching assistants, Mrs Burrows and Miss Liles. It is wonderful to have them on the team!

CELEBRATION CORNER

If there is something to celebrate from home – swimming certificates, sports awards, Beaver inductions etc, please do send them in to the office. They will then be added in here to the next week's newsletter to share with the school community. We look forward to hearing about the children's achievements outside of school.

You may notice this week that your little one is coming home wearing white and green stickers. These are linked to our values and we hope they support children to know why they have been recognized and which value it links to!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



We add new events and dates regularly as we book in trips, visitors, etc., so please check back regularly to make sure you have access to all the dates you need. These can also be found on the school website [here](#).

September

Meet the Teacher session for Y1 parents/carers (and first option for Y2) – Wednesday 9th September, 3:00-3:20p.m.

Meet the Teacher session for Reception parents/carers (and second option for Y2) – Thursday 10th September, 3:00-3:20p.m.

PTA Coffee Morning for new parents and carers - Monday 14th September, 9:15-10:30a.m.

PTA Coffee Morning for existing parents and carers – Tuesday 15th September, 9:15-10:30a.m.

Welcome Evening for all families – Tuesday 29th September, 3:30-5:00p.m.

Harvest-themed lunch – Wednesday 30th September

October

Children's flu vaccinations in the hall – Friday 2nd October, 12:30-3:00p.m.

Progress Evening – Wednesday 14th October, 3:30-6:00p.m.

Progress Evening – Thursday 15th October, 3:30-6:00p.m.

PTA non-uniform day - Friday 16th October

PTA Hallowe'en Disco for years 1 and 2 – Friday 23rd October, 3:30-5:00p.m.

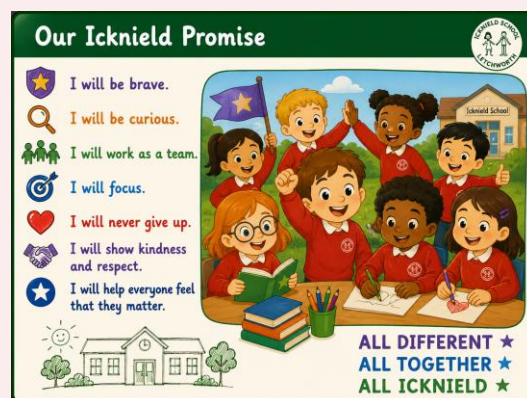
Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October Half Term, school closed to pupils

SCHOOL STORIES



WELCOME ASSEMBLY

Our weekly No Outsiders assemblies will usually feature here in this section of the newsletter. However, as these take part on a Monday, we were unable to enjoy one this week. Children were instead welcomed with a key stage one assembly focusing on the school values, the 'grown up goals' (our school development plan), the new Learning Powers, and a chance to reflect on what we learnt last year and what goals we may have for ourselves this year. We ended with The Icknield Promise, which encompasses all our school values and learning powers. No Outsiders will begin again on Monday morning and will be shared with you from next week.



AMAZON WISHLISTS

As you may remember, we are now suggesting purchasing a book for your child's class on your child's birthday to replace the sweets you may have sent in the past. This is entirely optional and not expected. For those who would like to take part, we will share the wishlists with you ASAP. There appears to be a technical error on the wishlist page, which we will resolve with Amazon and share them here next week. In the meantime, should your child have a birthday and you wish to donate, please contact your child's class teacher.

THE BIG FUTURE

The Children's Commissioner is inviting all pupils to take part in The Big Future — a national survey capturing children's voices as the new school year begins. Schools are encouraged to share the survey with pupils and families, and many have found that giving children time during the school day leads to the strongest participation.

You can access the survey here: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>. Every child's voice matters — please help ensure our pupils are represented.

OUR WHOLE SCHOOL ENGLISH TEXT – FLOWER BLOCK

For the first two weeks of our English learning, the whole school will be immersing themselves in the wonderful text '*Flower Block*'. Across the two weeks, the children will explore the story through a range of exciting English activities, developing their reading, writing, vocabulary and creativity.

As part of our learning, each year group will be creating their very own **garden centre or allotment** linked to the story. We would love to make these as realistic and exciting as possible for the children to explore and use within their learning.

We would be very grateful for any donations of items that could help us bring our garden centres and allotments to life! For example:

- Empty plant pots, seed trays or yoghurt pots
- Artificial or real (dried) flowers and plants
- Small gardening tools
- Seed packets (empty or unopened)
- Gardening gloves
- Artificial plants or greenery
- Small cardboard boxes or baskets
- Plant labels or signs
- Gardening magazines or catalogues
- Pretend money, till or shopping bags
- Clean, empty fruit and vegetable packaging

Please hand any donations to your child's class teacher.

Thank you so much for helping us to make this a fun, hands-on and memorable learning experience for the children!

COMING UP

Please do check the dates for your class 'Meet the teacher' session next week. Your child's class teacher will briefly outline routines, expectations, PE days etc. The sessions all take place in the school day. If you cannot make it, please speak to the office who will ensure you receive a summary email.

DON'T FORGET

- All clothing items, lunch boxes, water bottles etc need to be labelled. There are almost 200 children in school, so lost items without labels can be very difficult to reunite with their owners!
- Only water may be drunk in classes – children may bring squash for lunch, but it will not be permitted during learning time.
- School begins at 8:40 and finishes at 3:20.

PTA & COMMUNITY

PTA MESSAGE

The PTA are back for a new year of fun-filled fundraising! We are pleased to welcome on board some new faces to the team in the form of both PTA members and Class Reps who I am sure you will get to know as the year progresses.

We do have two vacancies for class reps in both **Fox** and **Dolphin** class. If you think you might be interested, drop us an email at PTA@icknielinfants.herts.sch.uk or come and meet some of the team at our coffee morning events on 14th and 15th September (see the attached poster).

The PTA is not just for our children, but for us parents too. So please keep an eye out for upcoming events.

Support in any way you can, big or small.

LOOK WHAT WE'VE BEEN LEARNING!



NURSERY

Please see Tapestry for Mrs Maw's weekly update. If children have any interesting play moments, show school values or learning powers, or just want to share something from home with their teacher, please do upload it on Tapestry. Don't worry about lots of text – a simple photo and small caption is perfect!

RECEPTION

A concise snapshot of learning this week. Include key vocabulary, memorable experiences and anything families can talk
What a wonderful start to the week we have had! We are so proud of all of the children coming into a new environment with confidence and smiles.

Our focus for this week has been getting to know the children, the children getting to know us, making new friends and introducing the rules, routines and expectations at Icknield. In Reception this has been how to use the resources in the classroom as well as putting them away when they are finished, what we do at snack time, how to sit on the carpet and lining up.

Today the children completed their first full day along with another lunchtime. After they had eaten, they explored the big playground.

Next week we will be introducing our busy finger groups. The children will be expected to come into the classroom each morning and complete an activity which promotes fine motor control and strengthening their hands and fingers. They will find out their colour groups next week.

We hope everyone has a restful weekend and we look forward to next week!

Reminders:

- Please label all clothing (including shoes, wellies, water bottles, coat and spare clothes)
- Spare clothes to be in a drawstring bag or plastic carrier bag (not a rucksack)
- Bookbag to be brought to school every day
- Coat to be brought to school every day

✿ A Brilliant Start to Year 1! ✿

What a fantastic start we have had to Year 1! We have been very busy getting to know each other, settling into our new classrooms and learning about our classroom expectations.

We have talked about our **trusted adults** and explored who can help us both at school and at home. We have made hands to represent the trusted adults in our lives, and these will be sent home next week. We have also made **friendship bracelets** and talked about what it means to be kind and a good friend. As a class, we have made a special promise to be **kind, honest, respectful, safe and to never give up**.

Today, we have sent home an **'All About Me' form** with your child. Please spend some time together filling this in, as we would love to find out more about your child and the things that are important to them. Please bring the completed form back to school **next week**.

It has been a **brilliant start to Year 1**, and we are so proud of how well the children have settled into their new classes. We are looking forward to all the exciting learning and fun ahead!

Tapestry

Tapestry will continue to be used throughout Year 1. You can still upload and share news from home with us, and we will share these with the class every **Tuesday**. We love hearing about what the children have been getting up to outside of school! We will also continue to share your child's **learning and special moments from school** with you through Tapestry, so you can see all the wonderful things they are doing in Year 1.

A Few Reminders

PE days:

-  **Fox Class:** Monday and Wednesday
-  **Squirrel Class:** Tuesday and Thursday

Please ensure **PE kits are kept on your child's peg in school**.

Please also bring in a **named pair of wellies** for your child to leave in school. These will be useful for outdoor learning and play.

Thank you for your continued support! 

YEAR 2

It has been wonderful to welcome our new Year 2 pupils into Dolphin and Penguin Class this week! We've taken time to learn about each of the areas in our new Continuous Provision and how to use them. We've also created our own class charters to help us agree on how to create a safe and happy learning space.

A highlight this week has been writing postcards to tell friends and family what we enjoyed over the holiday. The children topped this lovely writing off by creating their own water colour painting on the back of the postcard. They look beautiful!

This week we have also read the book, *Everybody has a Body*. Through this book, we created our own characters that represent important qualities and interests of our own. We reflected on the fact that we are all different and all valued.

We are very excited to welcome everyone back next week and continue the fun!

Reminder:

Please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school on Monday. This will stay on their peg until the end of the half-term.

CLASSROOM CORNER

WHAT TO ASK YOUR CHILD

- What are the school values?
- Can you tell me about Learning Powers?
- Tell me about something that made you smile today!
- What did you discover/explore today?
- If you could replay one moment from today, what would it be?

TRY THIS AT HOME

Try a simple “Story of Our Day” routine at home.

Each evening, spend a few minutes with your child talking about three moments from their day: something that felt good, something that felt a bit tricky, and a moment where they showed a value like kindness or bravery. You can draw it, act it out with toys, or just talk together. This gentle ritual helps children reflect, build confidence and connect school values with home life — all without pressure.

STAR CELEBRATIONS ★ ★ ★

STAR OF THE WEEK

Next week's newsletter will contain the names of our very first 'Stars of the Week' of the year. These children will be celebrated for showing one of the school values of being *Safe, Kind, Respectful, Honest* or *Never Giving Up*, OR for demonstrating one of our new **Learning Powers**, *Brave, Curious, Teamwork* and *Focus* in their learning. The children's names will feature here in the newsletter and at some point the following week, they will be invited to enjoy a tea party (squash and biscuits) with Mrs Squires. We look forward to sharing our stars very soon!

FAMILY INFORMATION

LETTERS / FLYERS

Hitchin Town Football Club Flyer
PTA dates poster
Cool Milk flyer

CLUBS / ACTIVITIES

Clubs provided by HTFC begin next week – please see the attached HTFC flyer.