

Ickniel Infants'

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

September 2026

• BRAVE

✦ CURIOUS

◆ TEAMWORK

• FOCUS

A WORD FROM MRS SQUIRES

This week the key stage one pupils started their formal learning. Routines are becoming embedded and children have learnt to tidy up, so teachers have been excited to start teaching. All classes have begun work on the whole school text, Flower Block, in English, and there have been some wonderful enhancements set up linked to this to support children to learn through play. You will see below what other wonderful learning has been taking place.

Today we welcomed our brand-new Attendance Bears! The bears will be spending time in the class who have the highest collective attendance each week and the children will be allowed to play with them and share photos of the bears joining in play. Next week we will run a competition to name them so they can feel like full members of the Ickniel family. The bears come with 2 outfits each and we think they are delightful. I'm sure your children will love playing with them and tell you all about the bears adventures.

We were very lucky to welcome several new governors to our governing body last year. However, we still have **three vacancies**. We would love to recruit two parent governors and one co-opted governor. If you or someone you know would be interested in volunteering to work alongside the school's senior leadership team to support school improvement and direction, please email our chair of governors, Richard Griffin, on r.griffin@icknielinfants.herts.sch.uk.



THIS WEEK AT ICKNIELD



SUPER STAR SPORTS

Our **school-funded lunchtime sports club** started again this week, and it has already been a fantastic success! Held every Monday and open to all pupils, the club gives children the opportunity to get active, try different sports and enjoy playing together.

The club is always well attended and provides plenty of **fun, teamwork and healthy competition**. It has been lovely to see so many children getting involved and making the most of this exciting lunchtime opportunity!

CELEBRATION CORNER

We are so proud of Philip in Dolphin class, who has been playing chess, checkers and backgammon since last year — and this summer he added rummy to his repertoire!

Philip's mum reports that it has been wonderful to see his understanding, concentration and enjoyment of these games grow. We are all incredibly proud of him... although we understand that the patience required to actually play a game with him is a whole other story! 😊

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

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

NO OUTSIDERS

In our No Outsiders assembly this week, we explored a lovely story about Christian, an eight-year-old boy who noticed a new classmate, Connor, feeling frightened and alone on his first day at school. Rather than walking past, Christian took Connor's hand and gently walked him into school. We talked about how it can feel to be new or different and considered how we might help someone who is feeling worried, lonely or unsure.



The children thought carefully about what we can learn from Christian and how we can make sure that everyone feels welcome, included and safe at our school. We talked about celebrating difference and never leaving someone feeling like an outsider. This linked beautifully to our British Value of Mutual Respect, reminding us that everyone deserves kindness, respect and friendship.

PARKING

We appreciate that parking around Archers Way can be challenging, particularly at busy drop-off and collection times. However, we are increasingly concerned about some of the parking and driving we are seeing around school, and would like to remind all parents and carers that the school drive **must not be used for parking**.

Please take extra care when driving near the school and be considerate of pedestrians, other families and our neighbours. We had a recent incident where a vehicle was driven onto the kerb and pavement before continuing down the school drive, which

was extremely concerning. The safety of our children and families must always come first. Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us to keep the area around school safe.

MEET THE TEACHER MEETINGS

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our meet the teacher meetings this week. It was wonderful to see so many of you and pass on some crucial key messages. We hope it was useful to get to know your child/ren's class teacher/s a little and begin to understand how their class works. For any parents/carers who were unable to attend, please find the materials used attached as a PDF alongside this newsletter.

OUTDOOR PLAY AND LEARNING (OPAL) IS BACK! ☁

We are excited to be relaunching OPAL from next week! Children will have access to lots of exciting toys, equipment and activities to support creative and imaginative lunchtime play.

We know how important outdoor play is for children, and we want them to enjoy being outside in all weathers! Please make sure your child brings **wellies and a coat** to school. You are also very welcome to provide a puddle suit or similar if you prefer. We can't wait to see the children enjoying our fantastic outdoor spaces!

COMING UP

Save the date! At the end of the month, we will be hosting our Welcome Evening. More information will be provided nearer the time, but this event is a lovely chance to get to know the school and staff in a relaxed atmosphere.

DON'T FORGET

- The office opening times are 8:30-3:30. Outside of these times, if you call you will need to leave a message and someone will return your call when the office is next open.
- Only water is permitted for children to drink in class. Any squash that is provided will be saved to have with lunch. You are welcome to send in two named water bottles if you are providing an extra drink for lunchtime.

PTA & COMMUNITY



PTA MESSAGE

We look forward to welcoming many of you to our coffee morning on either Monday or Tuesday next week. After drop off meet in reception and one of the team will welcome you in for 9.15. Even if you can only stay for a short while you are still welcome to pop along.

Halloween disco tickets are now available for year 1 and 2 students. It is set to be a spooktastic event! Tickets are £5 with £2.50 for any additional sibling. If you have any questions please email PTA@icknielinfants.herts.sch.uk. Look out for posters around school and on our social media page for details on how to make payment.

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

What another lovely week we have had this week! The children have settled in very well and we are looking forward to starting lots of wonderful learning next week.

We have continued spending lots of time with the children in 'Discovery Time' and consolidating our rules and routines at Icknield. The children have really enjoyed finding their colour groups in the morning and completing their busy fingers activities.

Next week we will begin reading and phonics and home learning will be sent home on Friday 18th September. Home learning packs will need to be returned on Wednesday 23rd September

We hope everyone has a lovely weekend and we look forward to seeing you 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.

YEAR ONE

It has been a busy and exciting week in Year 1! The children have been creating their own **self-portraits**, carefully looking at their skin colour and the features of their faces. We talked about how we are all unique and noticed the many wonderful differences between us. We celebrated what makes each of us special and enjoyed sharing our ideas with one another.

We have also begun our **Science and Computing lessons** this week. In Science, we learned about the **four seasons** and discussed how they link to different times of the year. The children enjoyed matching the months to the correct season and are beginning to understand how the seasons change throughout the year.

In Computing, we explored **technology around us** and talked about what we mean by a device. We also discussed how we can use technology safely, both at school and at home.

Alongside this, we have been busy **recapping some of our phonics and maths learning from Reception**, helping us to build confidence and get ready for our Year 1 learning.

A big thank you to all the families who have already brought in **PE kits and wellies**. If you haven't done so yet, please send these in when you can. PE kits can be left on the children's pegs for the whole half term, and wellies can be kept at school so that the children can enjoy exploring and learning **in all weathers!** 🌧️👟

Don't forget to return your **all about me forms** to your class teacher, these are really helpful as we continue to get to know your children. If you need another one please let us know.

We would like for you to send in a **family photo** for the children to have in class, please send these in via tapestry or the class emails.

squirrelclass@icknielinfants.herts.sch.uk

foxclass@icknielinfants.herts.sch.uk

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
-  **Squirrel Class:** Tuesday

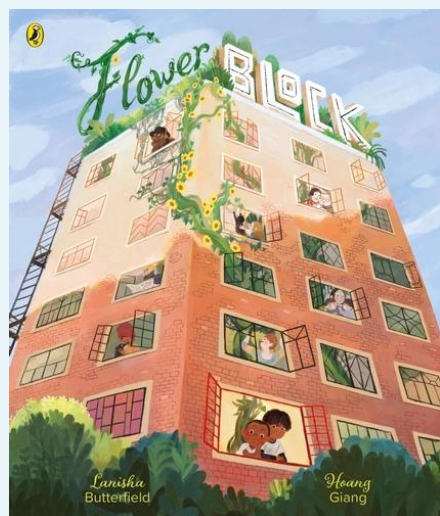
Please ensure **PE kits are kept on your child's peg in school.**

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.

Well done, Year 1, for such a fantastic start! We are very proud of you all. ☀️

YEAR 2

Year 2 have had a fantastic week! We are very proud of how well the children have settled into their new classrooms. On Wednesday, we started our new whole school book of *'The Flower Block'*. We have worked on our presentation and letter formation whilst writing a thought bubble and creating a poster for an allotment! We are excited to find out what happens next in the book!



On Wednesday we also started our first Maths topic! We have been looking at making and drawing teen numbers out of tens and ones and missing numbers on a number line!

In Art, we have been looking at the artist Yayoi Kusama. We have explored mixing primary colours to make secondary colours and using dots to create paintings.

Year 2 Challenge of the Week!

Each week, there will be a challenge in the newsletter for you to complete. If you complete the challenge, bring it in to show your teacher or send an email to the class email address and you will receive a sticker!

This week's challenge is handwriting!

Practice the following capital letters in your neatest handwriting.



Reading rewards!

In Year 2, we have a special reading challenge. Each week your class teacher will look through your reading records and see if you have read at least 3 times. If you have, you will get a purple butterfly stamp. If you get 5 purple butterfly stamps in your reading record (reading 3x a week for 5 weeks of a half term) then you shall receive a small prize!

Reminders:

- We have had a lot of jumpers left behind in classrooms that have no name that are on the step outside the Year 2 area. Please check if any of these jumpers are yours. Moving forward, every Friday any unnamed jumpers will go into lost property which is located at the office. Please ensure that **all clothing and water bottles are named** to ensure nothing further goes missing.
- We will be starting guided reading next week. Your child will be receiving a reading book and their reading records on Friday 18th September, please ensure their reading book and reading record are in their book bags every day.

CLASSROOM CORNER

WHAT TO ASK YOUR CHILD

- What was the most interesting thing you learned?
- Did anyone make you laugh?
- Who did you help today?
- What was a bit tricky?
- Did you try something you hadn't done before?
- When did you feel happy today?
- Was there a time you felt worried, cross or sad?
- If you could do one thing at school again tomorrow, what would it be?
- If you were the teacher for the day, what would you do?

TRY THIS AT HOME

Sometimes telling rather than asking can get a better conversation started:

"I wonder what your classroom was like today..." or "I bet something funny happened at lunchtime!"

And don't worry if your child still says "I don't know"! Try asking while they're having a snack, drawing, playing or travelling home rather than sitting them down for a question-and-answer session.

STAR CELEBRATIONS ★ ★ ★ ★

STARS OF THE WEEK

Very well done to our stars of the week! These children will enjoy a tea party (squash and biscuits) with Mrs Squires at some point next week:

Caterpillar: Macie

Ladybird: Safiya

Butterfly: Ellis

Squirrel: Yigit

Fox: Awet

Dolphin: Ellora

Penguin: Carter

FAMILY INFORMATION

LETTERS / FLYERS

Hitchin Town Football Club Flyer

iRock flyer

Coram family lives workshops

Meet the teacher Powerpoints (3x PDFs)

Let's get talking! handout

CLUBS / ACTIVITIES

If your child would like to join either of the HTFC clubs, please contact Hitchin Town Football Club directly.