



Icknield Infants'

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



September 2026

• BRAVE

✦ CURIOUS

◆ TEAMWORK

• FOCUS

A WORD FROM MRS SQUIRES

This week started with two PTA coffee mornings, which were well-attended and had a friendly vibe. A huge thank you to our hardworking team of lovely parents/carers who volunteer for these events to build our community and raise money for the school. We are very lucky to have you all! Thank you to the parents, carers and other relatives who attended – it is always lovely to welcome you to school.

This week, guided reading groups began in all classes. Our timetables have been tweaked this year so that we can pool teaching assistants and senior leaders to ensure all children read in a small group in classes at the same time. All classes from Reception to Year Two have these sessions three times a week, and we are very grateful to our wonderful team of governors who have volunteered to fill the gaps presented by timetabling clashes! You will see when your child has had guided reading as there will be a stamp or short comment in their reading record.

I held my very first tea party this week and it was wonderful as always! Tea party has changed this year to make it seem more exciting – it is now held at a surprise time in the week. This week it was on Friday, so it kept the children guessing all week! The children have each brought home a **story sack** to share with their family as part of the recognition for showing the values or learning powers in class! We hope you enjoy sharing them together. Please could we ask that they are returned by Wednesday next week so they can be given out to next week's tea party children by the end of next week.

THIS WEEK AT ICKNIELD



SUKKOT

This week's Value assembly focused on the Jewish festival of Sukkot. The children listened to, "Sammy Spider's first Sukkot," which shares some of the traditions of the festival as Sammy Spider observes them. Following an excellent suggestion from a family last year, we will have a whole-school focus on a range of festivals from several religions across the year.

CELEBRATION CORNER

Please do remember to email the office if your child has any reason to celebrate – swimming, Beavers investment, football, completing homework independently, completing a helpful job with increasing independence – whatever the skill, we'd love to celebrate children's successes outside of school as well as inside.

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

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

On Monday, we enjoyed another No Outsiders assembly, where we explored the wonderful story of Naomi, a girl with cerebral palsy who loves being in the water. The children were fascinated to discover how an adapted paddleboard, with a special seat and hand grips, meant that Naomi could enjoy paddleboarding too. We talked about how sometimes it isn't the person who needs to change — it is the world around them that needs to change to make sure everyone can join in.

The children shared some fantastic ideas about how we can make sure that everyone feels included, welcome and able to take part. We thought about the different things we might need to change or adapt so that our friends can join in with activities, and linked this to our No Outsiders message that everyone belongs. It was lovely to hear the children talking so positively about difference and thinking about how we can make our school a place where nobody feels left out.



OPAL PLAY TIMES

This week the children had a training session with Mrs Squires or Miss Athow on how to look after our OPAL equipment, and we relaunched OPAL play at lunchtime. The children have a whistle and a bell to signal tidy-up time and lining up time, and they know whether items should be carried by one, two or more people depending on their size. This week we have introduced polydron, large wooden blocks, small world play such as dinosaurs, dolls' house and cars and a trolley of games and arty bits. Each week as we ensure the equipment is being played with respectfully and put away, more equipment will be introduced. Children will also have the opportunity to play out whatever the weather, so please do remember coats, or leave a light rain jacket at school. We managed some wonderful photos this week, which you can see below.



WELCOME EVENING

We would love to invite our families to join us after school on Tuesday 29th September for our Welcome Evening! When you arrive, you will receive a special Icknield Infants' passport and a map of the school. There will be activities in all of our classrooms, giving you the opportunity to explore where your children spend their days and enjoy some of our learning activities together. There will be riddles to solve, and you will receive a sticker or stamp in your passport for every room you visit.

You will also have the opportunity to meet Mrs Squires, some of our school governors, our SENCo and other members of the school team. There will be lots of fun activities to enjoy, including a photo booth area! We would love to see as many of our families as possible and look forward to welcoming you into school for an evening of fun, learning and community.

The evening will run from 3:30–5:00pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

COMING UP

Over the next three weeks, senior leaders will be looking carefully at how the school is doing against our school development priorities. We will be completing a learning walk, looking at pupil books and visiting lessons. We look forward to sharing highlights with you as well as setting ambitious next steps to further improve provision and better support our brilliant young minds to thrive.

DON'T FORGET

- Please ensure all children wear **full school uniform** – red plain jumper or cardigan, grey or black trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore, red or white polo shirt and black shoes with grey or white socks/tights. Our uniform guide can be found [here](#).
- Please name all children's items – including raincoats and wellies. Over 170 is a lot of children and can create a lot of lost property in no time at all!
- Long hair must be tied up every day. This avoids hair becoming caught/trapped, stops hair from hitting others during running and fast play and stops the unnecessary spreading of headlice.

PTA & COMMUNITY



PTA MESSAGE

Thank you to all of the parents and carers who joined us for our coffee morning's this week. It was so lovely for us to have an opportunity to meet and chat with one another. The PTA hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

Coming up - own clothes day for the children- Friday 16th October in exchange for raffle prizes for the Christmas market.
Nursery/reception - a bottle, year 1&2 something red or green (please see the attached poster for ideas)

Money has started coming in for the Halloween disco, please be assured your payments have been received and tickets will be issued to your children in due course.

Lastly, we are opening up to parents who have small businesses, if you would like to hold a stall at our upcoming Christmas market - Friday 11th December 3.30 till 7pm, please email for more information. PTA@icknieldinfants.herts.sch.uk

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

This week we started our formal Literacy learning with a wonderful whole school unit on the book '**The Flower Block**' by **Lanisha Butterfield**. The book focuses on a young boy called Jeremiah and what happened when he planted some magic seeds. The children came into school on Monday to a surprise basket of **tools** and some **magic seeds**. We looked at the tools and introduced the names for each tool: **spade, trowel, hoe, rake**. We asked the children their thoughts on what we

should do with the magic seeds and they decided we should plant them. They prepared the soil using the tools and working as a team. They then planted the seeds and watered them.



Tiny magic seeds

On Tuesday they checked the seeds but nothing had happened. The children then drew some pictures of what they thought would happen to the seeds and labelled their drawings. On Wednesday the children came into school and the magic had worked! Plants and vegetables had magically appeared. The children were very excited. We played some music and the children danced as if they were plants and vines growing from seeds. Photos were taken of the children. On Thursday we worked on orally composing captions to describe what was happening in these pictures.

In Maths we have continued our counting practise and introducing different number rhymes including **5 little ducks, 5 speckled frogs and 5 little men.**

In phonics we have learnt 4 new sounds: **s, a, t and p.** The children thoroughly enjoyed playing what's in the box where we take objects and pictures out of a box that begin with the sound that we are learning. Phonics home learning of these sounds will be sent home in their home learning packs today.

Little Wandle Parent Portal - <https://www.littlewandle.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

We have also completed 3 reading sessions this week. All children will bring home the book they have been discussing in their groups in their home learning pack. Wordless books are a vital starting point as they build visual literacy, encourage rich language development, and give children full ownership of a story. Please share the book with your child 3 times and add a comment to their reading record.

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!

 **English:** We have started our new English unit based on *The Flower Block* by Lanisha Butterfield. We have been introduced to the different families and members of the community who live in the block of flats. We have enjoyed exploring how everyone comes together to create and care for a community garden, and we are beginning to think about the importance of working together and being part of a community.

12 Maths: In Maths, we have been learning about **ordinal numbers** and how we use them to describe position and order. We have been practising using words such as **1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th** and beyond.

Science: We have started our new Science learning by exploring different **materials**. We have been learning the names of materials and beginning to identify and describe the materials that everyday objects are made from.

RE: In RE, we have been getting creative and thinking about what it means to be a **creator**. We have enjoyed using our imaginations and exploring the idea of creating something new.

Music: We have had lots of fun in Music this week learning the hip-hop song '**Hey You!**' We have been developing our singing skills and listening carefully to the beat and rhythm. We have also enjoyed comparing *Hey You!* with other hip-hop songs and spotting similarities and differences between them.

Reading: Our reading books have gone **home today!** Please try to read with your child **at least three times a week** and remember to **sign their reading record** each time. Regular reading at home makes a huge difference to your child's confidence and progress.

Phonics: We have also sent home this week's **phonics practice**. This includes the sounds and skills that the children have been learning in Phonics this week, so it is a great opportunity to practise these together at home.

Thank you for your continued support with your child's learning at home. We hope you enjoy sharing their books and phonics learning together! ✨



What a wonderful week of learning, creativity and teamwork! ☀️

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:

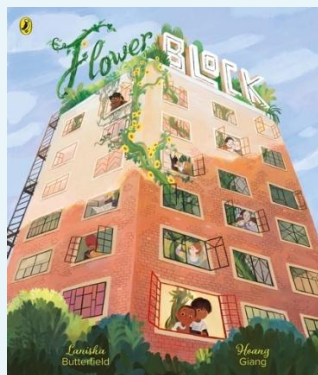
-  **Fox Class:** Monday
-  **Squirrel Class:** Tuesday

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

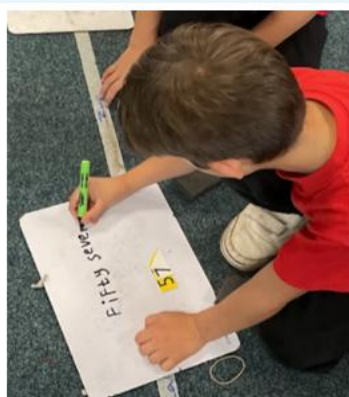
Please also bring in a **named pair of wellies** for your child to leave in school. These will be useful for outdoor learning and play.

YEAR TWO

Another great week for Year 2 this week! Through our text, the *Flower Block*, we have been thinking about community and how the actions of the children in the book have brought everyone together. We have been thinking creatively in English about what we would have in our own community garden and using adjectives to describe all of the things that we would include.



Our focus in maths this week has been place value and equality and inequality. We have been looking carefully at 2-digit numbers and how we can regroup them into tens and ones and reminded ourselves of the importance of putting our tens and ones the right way around! Also, we've been noticing how, for example, $4+4+4$ is equal to $10 + 2$ because they both make 12. Furthermore, we have practised using the $<$ and $>$ symbols to show 'less than' and 'greater than.'



Our focus on Yayoi Kusama continued this week with the children producing some wonderful pumpkin art in Kusama's dotty style!



In PE we are working on a Pilates unit of work inspired by a haunted house. We have thought carefully about our movements to the music as we creep through, shine our torches and peer behind the creaky doors!



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 maths!

In class, the crocodiles have been helping us to remember which way round our q G symbols go. Make your own poster to remind others of what the following symbols mean:

- < less than
- > greater than
- = equal

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.
- 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.
- **Wellies:** If your child does not have named wellies in school, pre-loved wellies will be available at home time in the year 2 canopy. If you select a pair, please use the markers provided to write your child's name in and place them on the class welly rack which will be set up.

CLASSROOM CORNER

WHAT TO ASK YOUR CHILD

- Try some of these questions this week:
- What made you curious today?
- Did you discover something that surprised you?
- Who did you enjoy working or playing with today?
- What did you do when something didn't go right?
- What were you brave enough to try?
- Did you notice someone being kind or helpful?
- What was your favourite part of the day?
- What did you find easy today?
- What would you like to get better at?
- Which of our Learning Powers did you use today — Brave, Curious, Teamwork or Focus?

TRY THIS AT HOME

Try sharing something about your own day before asking about theirs. You could say, "Something funny happened at work today..." or "I found something quite tricky today and I had to keep trying." This gives your child something to respond to and shows them that adults learn, make mistakes and persevere too.

You could also turn the journey home or mealtime into a "tell me one..." game: one thing you learned, one thing you enjoyed, one thing that was tricky and one thing you are proud of. There are no right or wrong answers — sometimes the best conversations happen when you're not trying too hard to have one!

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. They will also choose a story sack to enjoy at home next weekend:

Caterpillar: Kaius

Ladybird: Benny

Butterfly: Emily

Squirrel: Ella

Fox: Nova

Dolphin: Hendrix

Penguin: Thea

FAMILY INFORMATION

LETTERS / FLYERS

PTA flyer

CLUBS / ACTIVITIES

A reminder that Drawing Club starts next week and will be run on a Monday after school. Parents/carers of children who have been given a space in the club will already have been notified. We look forward to seeing some fabulous works of art!