



Icknield Infants'

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



September 2026

• BRAVE

✦ CURIOUS

◆ TEAMWORK

• FOCUS

A WORD FROM MRS SQUIRES

The weather has been kind to us this week and it has meant that we have been able to get a wide range of toys and equipment outside for lunchtime play, as part of our OPAL project. Children have the physical equipment which you will always see on the playground, but also the choice of a doll's house, a small world farm, cars, a garage and a multi-terrain ramp, chalks, pencils, crayons and paper, a large foam tic-tac-toe game, bean bags, polydron, large wooden blocks, magnet tiles, and puzzles and games. Next week we are introducing sand and inflatable toys such as space hoppers. We are working on team tidying up, but the play is wonderful.

This week we have discussed with the children what to do when they witness negative behaviours at school, for example shouting or hitting. We have explained to the children that their role is to tell an adult and that the adult will have a conversation with the child who is displaying negative behaviours and introduce either a **protective** or **educational consequence**. This is outlined in detail in our behaviour policy, which is due to be ratified by governors next month and will be shared with parents and carers ahead of half term. If you would like any information on our policy before then, please speak to a member of the teaching team.

I was lucky enough this week to have time to visit every class to complete a learning walk. The focus of the visit was to look at the classroom climate, behaviour routines and how effective our discovery time (learning through play) is. Classes were, without exception, purposeful during visits. Adults were supporting children's learning and were deployed well so that children's needs could be met both in play and during adult-directed activities. There was clear progression through the school in terms of expectations of children during discovery time. Next we will be further enhancing classroom challenges to ensure a tight focus on reading, writing and maths every week. It was so wonderful to spend the time with the children – I look forward to doing this much more across the term.

THIS WEEK AT ICKNIELD



CELEBRATION CORNER



This is Arthur. Arthur attended his 3rd week at a new football club and got 'blue card of the week' - these are given to 1 child each week when they display positive sporting behaviour in a session.

They specifically mentioned his talents in goal and they were very

CELEBRATION CORNER

Cerys in Penguin class completed her 21st Park Run on Sunday and earned a marathon wristband. She was aiming for a personal best time but it wasn't to be after a little tumble. Cerys showed true Icknield spirit by not giving up and ran over the finish line. Well done, Cerys – we are so proud of you!

Park Run Juniors is a 2km run every Sunday at 9am in Norton Common starting near the tennis courts. It's completely free, register online to have your runs recorded

proud of the progress he is making, as are his parents. Well done, Arthur, what a huge achievement!

and earn milestone wristbands. You can start aged 4 and your grown-up runs with you. www.parkrun.com

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, our KS1 children enjoyed this week's **No Outsiders** assembly, based on the story *Baby Giraffe*. We thought about how we are all unique and special, and how important it is to be kind and welcoming to everyone, even when someone might look, sound or do things differently from us.

The children talked about the importance of **respect, kindness and including others**, and reflected on how we can make sure that everyone feels that they belong. It was lovely to hear the children sharing their thoughtful ideas and examples of how they can be a good friend and make others feel welcome at Icknield. 🦒💖

FLU VACCINATIONS

We have had a number of questions from parents and carers about the arrangements for this year's flu vaccinations. We can confirm that the vaccination team will be visiting school as planned on **Friday 2nd October**. The vaccination team will contact parents and carers directly to arrange consent for your child to receive their flu vaccination. You should receive this communication by the beginning of next week. Please look out for the communication from the vaccination team and follow their instructions to provide consent. There is no need to contact the school to give permission, as consent will be managed directly by the vaccination team. Thank you for your patience while these arrangements have been finalised.

WELCOME EVENING

A reminder that we have invited 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!

FREE SCHOOL MEAL ELIGIBILITY FOR FAMILIES WITH NO RECOURSE TO PUBLIC FUNDS (NRPF)

Free school meal eligibility has been extended to children in all households with NRPF, subject to the relevant household income thresholds.

This may include children of:

- Zambrano carers;
- families who have no recourse to public funds with a right to remain in the UK on grounds of private and family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights;
- families receiving support under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 who are also subject to a no recourse to public funds restriction;
- a subset of failed asylum seekers supported under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
- Chen carers;
- families holding a BN(O) passport;
- spousal visa holders;
- work visa holders;
- student visa holders;
- those with no immigration status.

Under the permanent extension of free school meal eligibility to all NRPF groups, the annual household income thresholds for families able to work are:

- £22,700 for families outside of London with 1 child;
- £26,300 for families outside of London with 2 or more children.

If your family falls into one of the categories above and your household income is within the relevant threshold, please contact the school. We can provide you with a form to complete so that we can record your child's eligibility for Free School Meals.

Even if your child already receives a meal at school, it is important that eligible families register their FSM eligibility. Registering can help the school access additional funding to provide support and resources for pupils.

If you are unsure whether you qualify, please contact the Family Support Worker (fsw@icknieldinfants.herts.sch.uk) and we will be happy to provide further information.

BREAKFAST CLUB NOTICE

Hi Parents and Carers from the Breakfast club team! 🍳

Our Breakfast Club has officially started, and we've been absolutely delighted with the huge uptake! It's been fantastic seeing the children settle in, have fun and make the most of their mornings with us. The children have been busy building, creating and role-playing in our shop—which has now transformed into a café! They've also been getting creative with loom bands, art and painting. They've also been enjoying a lovely breakfast to start the day, including Greek yoghurt, fresh fruit and other tasty choices.

We'd really appreciate it if parents could take a few minutes to complete our parent questionnaire (Link is below). Your feedback will help us better understand your needs and what you would like from our Breakfast Club.

Our aim is to keep Breakfast Club free for families wherever possible. At present, Breakfast Club is not funded by the DfE, so your feedback will be really valuable in helping us understand demand, demonstrate the needs of our families and explore ways to keep the club running as a free provision.

Thank you for your continued support — it really does make a difference!

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf1W5jkPCWYEyZ5hmRyMyrTGUHZzcol6bkczjM1Z_hboduAfw/viewform?usp=publish-editor

COMING UP

- Welcome Evening
- Flu Vaccinations
- Online booking opens for Progress Evening
- PTA Non-uniform day
- PTA disco

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

Own Clothes Day – Friday 16th October

A little reminder that if you are making a donation for Own Clothes Day, please make sure that anything donated is completely nut-free. Thank you so much for your support!

Halloween Disco – Friday 23rd October 🎃

Tickets have now been given to all children whose parents/carers have already paid. A quick reminder when making payments: please use your child's name and class as the payment reference. This makes it much easier for us to match payments to children and get tickets to the right people — thank you!

Santa's Grotto & Christmas Market 🎅🎄

We are SO excited to be bringing you our Santa's Grotto and our very first Christmas Market! Tickets can only be purchased in person (please see the attached poster for details). When you buy your tickets, you will be given a time slot to visit Santa.

Tickets are limited, so make sure you don't miss out! Children aged 2–8 years are welcome to visit Santa, but every child will need their own ticket.

We can't wait to see everyone there and get into the Christmas spirit! ❤️

If you have any questions, please email PTA@icknielinfants.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 continued our learning on the book **'The Flower Block'** by **Lanisha Butterfield**. We introduced the word **community**. In our classes we discussed what it meant to be part of a community – part of a family, swimming club, rainbows, cubs, neighbours and school. We then made rosettes showing what community we were part of and linked this back to our **Icknield Values – safe, honest, respectful, kind and never give up!**



Later in the week we looked at **community gardens**. The children spoke about different things they could see and the focus was on working together as a community to construct these. We made our own community gardens during our **discovery time** working together as a team. We also enjoyed singing a new song as a community - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xiygQUPfCGI>



In Maths we introduced the word **subitise**. **Subitise** is the ability to look at a small group of objects and instantly know how many there are without counting them. The children loved playing different **subitising** games including rolling a di and building the correct corresponding tower or making the pattern on the die and matching numicon to dominoes.



In phonics we have learnt 4 new sounds: **i, n, m and d**. We continued to identify the initial sounds in words by playing what's in the box and introduced **blending**. **Blending** is the phonics skill of taking separate letter sounds (phonemes) and smoothly merging or pushing them together to form a whole word. 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)

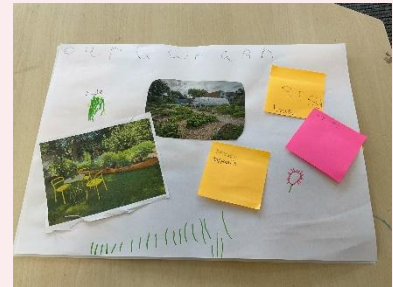
- Bookbag to be brought to school every day.
- Coat to be brought to school every day.

YEAR ONE

It has been another busy and exciting week in Year 1, with the children continuing to develop their skills and explore lots of new learning across the curriculum.

English

This week, we have continued our learning around the book *The Flower Block*. The children have been exploring community gardens in Letchworth and the surrounding towns, looking at the different features they include and how they can bring communities together. They have then used these ideas to design their own community gardens and have written about their designs.



Maths

In Maths, we have been practising our counting skills and working on counting and labelling sets using different numbers. The children have been developing their understanding of numbers and making links between numerals and quantities.

Science

In Science, we have been learning about different materials and where they come from. The children have been exploring the materials that different objects are made from and beginning to think about their properties and uses.

Computing – Purple Mash** 

This year, the children will be using Purple Mash to develop their computing skills and explore a range of fun and creative activities.

The children have already been learning how to log in using their individual login details. They have completed a simple painting programme and have also had the opportunity to complete a ****2Do****, allowing them to practise their computing skills independently.

Each week, we will set an optional home learning task on Purple Mash for the children to complete at home. These activities will provide an opportunity for children to practise the skills they have been learning in school and explore Purple Mash further with you at home.

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

What a fabulous week we have had in Year 2! In English, we are in our final week of learning around the book *"Flower Block"*.

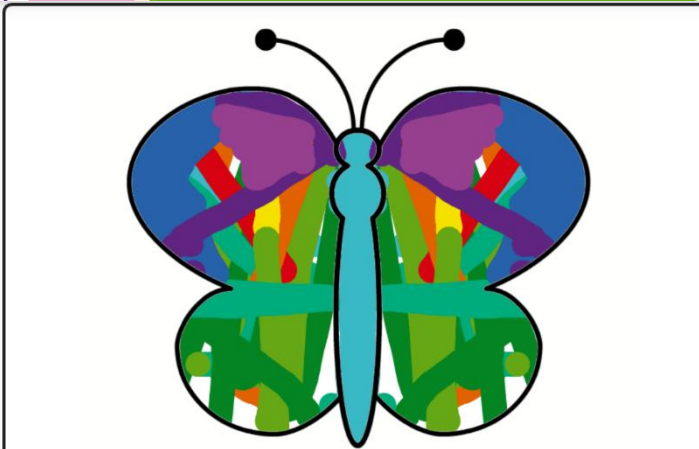
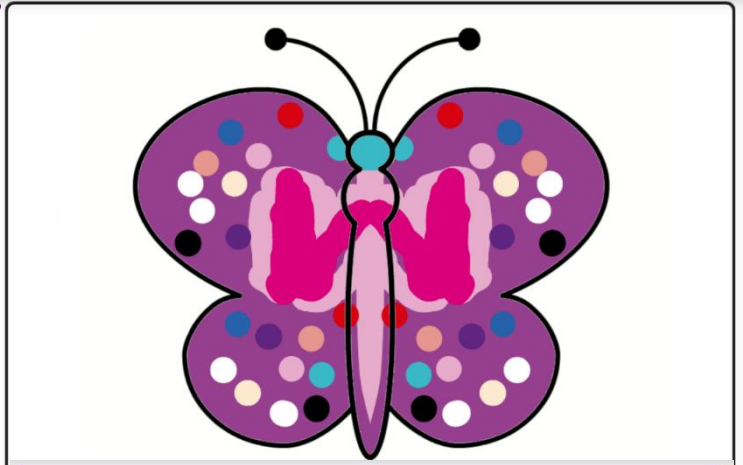
This week, we have been writing a leaflet all around our own garden of dreams and magic. Alongside this, we have been writing invitations to join our garden of dreams and magic and designed an eye-catching poster to showcase what our gardens would look like!



In Maths, we have been exploring place value. We have been using base-10, part-whole models and bead strings to make 2-digit numbers and identify their place value.



This week Year 2 have been exploring 2Paint in their Computing lessons. We have learnt how to login to PurpleMash independently and find our 2Dos. We then explored all the tools that we could use on 2Paint and practiced saving these into our folders and handing in our 2Dos! Here are some of our lovely 2Paint artwork!

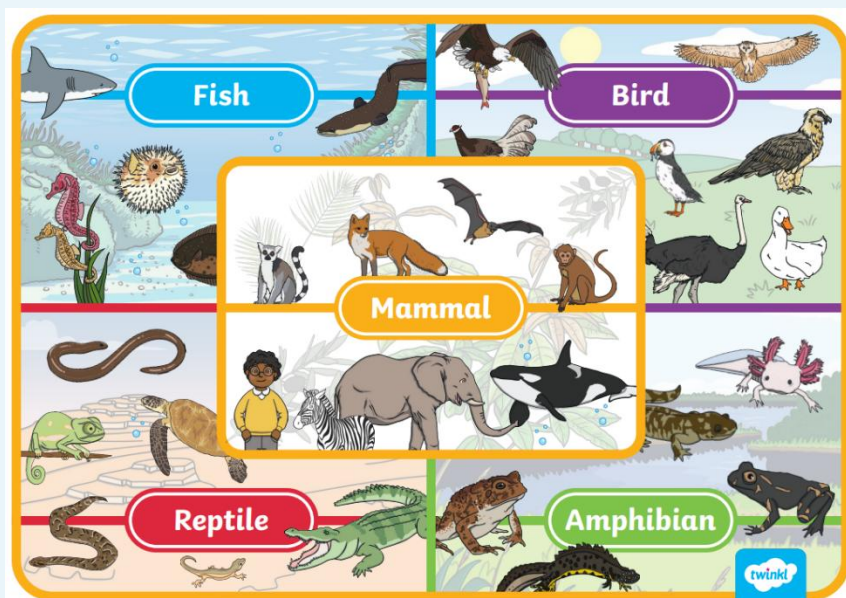


In Science, we have been exploring different animals and their habitats. We have been looking at bird habitats in provision this week and building a habitat that would be suitable for a bird. We have been very lucky in Year 2 to have new resources to help us develop our science skills! This week, we have had out our new resources to help us to build our bird habitats!



Year 2 Challenge of the Week!

Choose an animal group: birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians or fish and create a habitat for them! You could draw a picture or you could make something with recycled materials! Send a photo to Penguin Class or Dolphin Class email or bring in your habitat to receive a special sticker!



Reminders:

- Please ensure all clothing (including PE kit) and water bottles are labelled with your child's full name.
- Reading books went home last week. Reading books will be collected every **Wednesday**. Please read 3 times a week at least with your child and fill in your reading record. Please make sure reading records are at school every day as adults will be writing in these during guided reading sessions.

CLASSROOM CORNER

WHAT TO ASK YOUR CHILD

TRY THIS AT HOME

- What did you learn that you didn't know before?
- What made you think hard today?
- Did you make a mistake today? What did you do next?
- When did you use your Focus today?
- Who helped you today, or who did you help?
- What made you laugh?
- Was there anything that made you feel proud?
- What was the kindest thing you saw someone do?
- Did you have a go at something you weren't sure you could do?
- Which of our Learning Powers did you use today — Brave, Curious, Teamwork or Focus?

Go on a Learning Power Hunt!

Choose one of our four Learning Powers — Brave, Curious, Teamwork or Focus — and see how many examples you can spot at home during the week. Perhaps someone was Brave enough to try something new, Curious about how something worked, used Teamwork to get a job done or showed Focus while concentrating on something tricky.

You could even challenge your child to find an example of each Learning Power. Younger children can talk about what they noticed, while older children could explain why they think it shows that particular Learning Power. No special equipment needed — just sharp eyes and a little conversation!

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: Freya

Ladybird: Remy

Butterfly: Marley

Squirrel: Indija

Fox: Elle

Dolphin: Leo

Penguin: Presley

FAMILY INFORMATION

LETTERS / FLYERS

Y2 termly curriculum overview

Y1 termly curriculum overview

Family Lives: Dads Together info

PTA flyer

CLUBS / ACTIVITIES

Current clubs at school are:

Monday lunchtime – Superstar Sports club (school funded and open to all)

Monday – Drawing Club (no spaces)

Tuesday – HTFC Tennis

Wednesday – HTFC Football