



20th December 2024

School Newsletter #7

Dear Families,

As we approach the end of another wonderful term, we would like to take a moment to wish all our families a joyful and peaceful Christmas holiday. We hope you enjoy this special time together, creating lasting memories and sharing the magic of the season. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year on Tuesday 7th January! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

What have we been up to in school ?

It has been a very busy week. The children have taken part in a variety of lessons and activities this week. Here are few of the highlights.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL FAMILIES

Dinner money payments

In January we will start using payments in the Parent Portal!

From 1st January you will need to make payments and top up accounts for meals by logging into the Parent Portal. Your balances from our last system will be set up and will also show in the Parent Portal. Please continue to use Gateway for all other payments relating to trips, clubs and extended schools. If you have any questions please direct them to admin@ickworthpark.co.uk.

SCHOOL BANK ACCOUNT UPDATE – For the attention of parents using childcare vouchers or national savings scheme

Please continue to use the Ickworth Park Primary School Bank Details until the end of December 2024. The new Trust bank account details will not come into effect until the 1st of January.

Respect, Challenge, Resilience, Confidence

What have we been up to in school ?



Learning to be imaginative and expressive is an integral part of the Early Years curriculum. Children are always encouraged to respond creatively to what they see and hear around them. They are supported to invent, adapt and recount narratives with their friends regularly and singing familiar songs is positively encouraged. The trips to St Leonards' Stars & Lights festival and the pantomime supported this area of the curriculum beautifully.



As part of their history lessons this term Beech Class (Year 1) have been learning about personal chronologies. Two grandparents were invited into talk about their living memories and share their own personal chronologies. The children really enjoyed this and it really helped bring the History curriculum to life.

Hazel Class (Year 4) enjoyed their Victorian Day! It was a fun way to end their history topic, "How children's lives have changed through time." The class learned all about what school was like in Victorian times, and some of the children were really surprised by how different it was back then! Did you know that in Victorian schools, children had to sit very still and be quiet all day? If they misbehaved, they could get a smack with a ruler! Also, there were no fun lessons like PE or art, and the school day was much longer than today – it could last up to 12 hours! It was a real eye-opener for everyone, and they all agreed that school is much more fun today!



A key aspect of the science curriculum in year 5 is to carry out tests to answer questions like 'Which materials would be the most effective for making a warm jacket?' To support their learning, Willow Class became inventors and had to carefully consider the properties of different materials and why they are used before they could decide if they would be suitable for their invention.



Accumulator Challenge - We would also like to take a moment to remind everyone about the Year 6 Accumulator Challenge, where the children are given £5 to get creative and fundraise for a trip of their choice. This is an exciting opportunity for the children to take the lead in planning and executing their own fundraising ideas. While we love the enthusiasm and support from parents, it's important that the children handle the fundraising themselves to gain the full experience. If they don't quite reach their target, that's okay – it's all part of the learning process! Year 6 put on a wonderful Christmas Fayre today and have started to grow their 'pot'. We can't wait to see the imaginative ways they will work together next term to make their trip happen. Thank you again for your continued support and community spirit!



A huge thank you to all our families for your fantastic support with this term's school events – your involvement makes a real difference and we appreciate it more than you know!

Bury St Edmunds Library Book Club

The library in town is excited to launch its new book club for 9-12 year olds.

Our book club is called Chatterbooks and we will meet on the first Saturday of the month at Bury Library from 10.15-11am. Our next session will be on Saturday 4th January 2024. The group is run by staff at the library and our next book will be 'Rooftoppers' by Katherine Rundell. Copies are available to borrow from the display in the junior library: <https://suffolk.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/FULL/WPAC/BIBENQ/141853/118469707.1>

Children will be offered free squash and an activity or puzzle to either complete in the library or bring home. There is no pressure for children to have read the monthly book (they can chat about their own favourite books from home if they like), but we hope they will enjoy helping to choose the titles.

The book club is aimed at children aged 9-12 years olds and will be an opportunity to chat about their favourite reads in a relaxed setting, make new friends and discover new authors.

England Football - Safeguarding Awareness for Parents and Carers

Safeguarding is about creating safe environments and preventing children from experiencing harm or abuse. Its core mission is comprised of the measures institutions take to protect young people and children. Football is by far the most popular sport in the country, particularly among teenagers and children. England Football's learning faculty has designed a short safeguarding course for parents. The course is designed to help parents make an informed choice, about the footballing infrastructure in which children are enrolled. The course explains the vital role of safeguarding within the sporting sphere, and is well worth a look. If interested in this e-seminar, please follow the link below:

<https://learn.Englandfootball.com/courses/safeguarding/safeguarding-awareness-for-parents-and-carers>

Diary Dates for the Autumn Term

Fri 20th Dec – End of Term

Mon 6th Jan – Training Day for staff

Tues 7th Jan – Children return to school.

- **Wed 15th Jan** – EYFS Little Wandle- Coffee Morning 9.15-9.45am
- **Wed 15th Jan** – Deadline for EYFS Applications
- **Thurs 16th Jan** – Yr3 'Be Our Guest' Lunch
- **3rd – 7th Feb** - Wellbeing Week
- **Thurs 6th Feb** – Informal Sharing for Year 1-6
- **Tues 11th Feb** – Parent consultations
- **Tues 11th Feb** – Safer Internet Day
- **Thurs 13th Feb** – Parent consultations
- **Fri 14th Feb** – PTA Movie Night
- **17th – 21st February Half Term**
- **Thurs 27th Feb** – Yr2 'Be Our Guest' Lunch
- **Fri 28th Feb** – Year 4 Bake Sale
- **Thurs 6th Mar** – World Book Day
- **10th – 14th Mar** Science & STEM week
- **Fri 14th Mar** – Science Fair in hall
- **Fri 4th Apr** – PTA Disco
- **7th – 21st April Easter Holiday**
- **Tues 22nd Apr – PD Day**
- **Thurs 24th April** – Class Photos
- **Thurs 1st May** – Yr1 'Be Our Guest' Lunch
- **Mon 5th May – Bank Holiday**
- **Thurs 8th May** – Reception 'Be Our Guest' Lunch
- **12th – 15th May** – Year 6 SATs
- **Fri 23rd May** – Sports Day
- **26th – 30th May – Half term**
- 2nd-6th June – Year 4 Multiplication Tests

Communication

If you need to get in touch with the school or make changes to collection arrangements please use this email:

admin@ickworthpark.co.uk

If you would like to know more about our Early Help Offer or speak to the SENCo about your child's barriers to learning please use this email:

senco@ickworthpark.co.uk



House Points for this term are:

Saturn 2084

Earth - 1884

Mars - 2193

Mercury - 2009

Ickworth Park School Values

**Respect, Challenge, Resilience,
Confidence**

This term, we have been focusing on the value of **Respect** because it helps create a positive and caring school environment. By showing respect to others, we build strong friendships, support each other's learning, and make everyone feel valued. Starting the year with respect has set the tone for a happy and successful school year!

Attendance

These figures show the attendance of each class up to 19th December 2024

EYFS Elm Class – 96.10%

Year 1 Beech Class – 96.84 %

Year 2 Oak Class – 98.46 %

Year 3 Lime Class – 94.76 %

Year 4 Hazel Class – 97.66 %

Year 5 Willow Class – 98.23 %

Year 6 Larch Class – 96.88%

Whole School 97.2%

National average 94.6%

Contact Us:

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