

Ibstock Junior School

May Newsletter

It is hard to believe that we have now entered into our final 'Block' (6 week unit) of this academic year. We have had a wonderfully busy few weeks in school and enjoy watching our children continue to achieve, collaborate and enjoy! Below you will read about some of the learning that has taken place recently and about plans for Block 6.

Last week brought with it, the annual SATs tests (statutory Key Stage 2 Assessments). These tests are sat in exam conditions and are sent off to be marked externally. Year 6 pupils took 6 tests over the four days and worked extremely hard. We could not have been more proud of their efforts. They were cheerful, focused, resilient and gave of their very best. School staff worked extremely hard in ensuring children felt as relaxed as possible and many children enjoyed the daily pre-exam breakfast in the hall. Thank you to so many of the staff who donated their valuable time to make this happen. Results for SATs tests arrive in the last week of term. We send them out to parents as soon as we have them in school. They are sent separately to end-of-year academic reports.

Staffing updates—Summer term usually means that we have to say some goodbyes to some staff, but also hello to new members. In the last few weeks, we have waved good bye to one of our lunchtime supervisors, Miss Henningham. This week, we will also say goodbye to Mrs Harrison, our admin assistant. We wish both Miss Henningham and Mrs Harrison lots of luck in their new careers and thank them for their hard work. We also wave a temporary farewell to Miss Starkey who begins her maternity leave today. Mrs Heveran will return after the half-term to take over Flint class. Speaking of maternity, we were all delighted to hear of the safe arrival of Mrs Breen's baby, Max, who was born recently. We send our congratulations to the Breen family and look forward to hearing exciting news from Miss Starkey. At the end of academic year in July, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Bremridge and Mrs Taberner, as they will both be retiring. These two members of staff have worked at the school for 35 and 30 years respectively! We will also be saying goodbye to Mr Hinsley, who will be taking up a new position as Assistant Headteacher at Dove Bank Primary School. These staff have worked incredibly hard for our school and we will miss them immensely.

We welcome some new staff who have already started at the school. Mrs Longmore, Mrs Mee and Mrs McKeown have all started supporting in classrooms and are really enjoying working with our children. Mrs Baines will be joining us after half-term to become part of our dinner supervisor team. You may well have encountered our new office staff in the last few weeks. Mrs Ryan joins us as our admin assistant (Wednesday–Friday), Mrs Kinsey will be working in the office on Monday and Tuesday and Mrs Whittam joins us as Office Manager. All members of staff will be happy to help you with admin questions. Please remember that phones are not routinely answered between 8:30-9:30, so that office staff can focus on attendance and safety processes. If you need to report an absence you can leave a voicemail or email: office@ibstock.leics.sch.uk. If you need to get a message to a teacher, you can email: messages4teachers@ibstock.leics.sch.uk



Mrs Whittam



Mrs Ryan



Beaudesert Residential Trip Year 4 had a fantastic time on our residential trip to Beaudesert and made lots of wonderful memories together. The children took part in lots of exciting activities, including zip lining, where they bravely zoomed off a cliff edge, and pedal carting, which was great fun and full of competitiveness and laughter. They worked really well in teams during raft building, helping each other to build their rafts before giving them a try on the water.

The climbing activity was also a big success, with the children showing

great determination and encouraging one another to keep going. In the evening, we ended a brilliant day by gathering around the campfire to enjoy a sing along and a delicious cup of hot chocolate. We are so proud of how the children behaved and the positive attitudes they showed throughout the trip—well done Year 4!



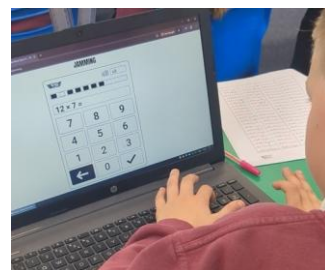


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Year 3 have thoroughly enjoyed their recent art and science learning linked to our L.S. Lowry topic. The artwork the children have produced has been fantastic, and we enjoyed sharing it during our Art showcase. We are also excited to begin our final topic of the year: **Greeks & Forces!** This topic will build upon all of our previous history learning as we explore the lives, achievements and timelines of famous Ancient Greeks, as well as learning about different forces in science. In maths, we have been exploring shapes and their properties, learning what makes each one unique. The children have also been enjoying their music lessons, where they have been experimenting with ways to recreate the sounds of playground equipment through music. In English, we have completed our persuasive writing unit and are now moving on to our final writing purpose: writing to entertain. This links perfectly with our new topic, as the children will be exploring and creating their own pieces inspired by Greek myths. We cannot wait to see the imaginative ideas they come up with!



In **Year 4 and 5** this block, the pupils have been developing their creativity and writing skills by planning and writing their own narratives based on the Mr Bunny story by Elys Dolan. They have used a range of sentence types and descriptive language to create vivid imagery in their work, as well as incorporating speech to bring key characters to life. In maths, pupils have been developing their understanding of fractions by finding equivalent fractions and learning how to add and multiply fractions. The Year 4 children have also been working extremely hard on their times tables in preparation for the Multiplication Tables Check in June, ensuring that they know all multiplication facts up to 12×12 confidently and fluently. In topic lessons, the classes have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the Shang Dynasty, learning about ancient Chinese civilisation, artefacts and the importance of oracle bones. Next block, we will move on to the final topic of the year: Scream Machine. During this exciting unit, the children will learn about forces and the effects of movement, explore the artwork of Edvard Munch, and create their own poetry. There are lots of exciting learning opportunities to look forward to!



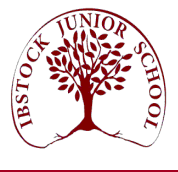
As you can imagine the last few weeks in **Year 6** have been all about SATs! With the focus having been on SATs, we now have the chance to extend our learning with some of the wider curriculum areas in the coming weeks, including history, science, languages, and art. There is opportunity for the children to show their creativity as we begin our **Mexico, Electricity, and Programming topics**. The children will have the opportunity to write a narrative inspired by Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) and discover the wonderfully weird world of electricity! Looking ahead, the children will also start gearing up for their leavers' assemblies—prepare to bring a box of tissues, as we'll ensure they're real tear-jerkers! Naturally, we will also be supporting the children as they prepare to make the transition to secondary school in what will be their final half-term with us at IJS.



Message from our SENDCo, Mrs Lewin. As a school, we have an increasing number of forms to complete from the NHS and other assessment centres. Staff are always happy to support you and your children by completing whatever is necessary but it takes time to do this properly. As teachers primary focus is to teach their classes, these forms have to be filled in outside of the school day. Please understand that it will usually take a few weeks before we can return a form to you, so bear this in mind, when making appointments for your child. Some providers can be quite demanding with their timescales, but all of them are able to wait when the situation is made clear to them. Please send form directly to me - SENAdmin@ibstock.leics.sch.uk

Our ACE Year 5/6 girls cricket team represented our school in an amazing manner at the regional "Kwik Cricket" competition at Ibstock Town Cricket Club. Winning three of their four games - including a 101-run win over another school - the girls finished second overall. Some of our cricketers were playing for the very first time, which you'd never have thought! Runs aplenty were scored, everybody took at least one wicket, and there was some fantastic work in the field! Well done and congratulations to Esmé B, Anaya C, Ella-Grace H, Thea C, Enya F, Ell-J T, Ellie K, Imogen C, Layla S, and Skyla-Lilly T! Sadly, the mixed competition was cancelled due to bad weather. We will inform the team of the rearranged date, which will be in early June.

17/06/26	Area athletics (for selected children)
23/06/26	Summer Fair
30/06/26	Summer Disco
2/07/26	Transition Day
6/07/26	ACE Assemblies
6/07/26	Year 6 Leaving Do
9/07/26	Yr 6 Leavers Assemblies in school hall (9:00- 9:45 Pathfinders, 9:50 -10:30 Rancher, 11:00-11:45 <u>Magicians</u>)
10/07/26	INSET (school closed to pupils)



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Our ACE Pupils! We are so impressed with the range of activities that our pupils take part in and excel in. Well done to...



Our amazing Year 6 pupil Wiktoria who was called to the West End to audition for the lead part in Matilda! Wiktoria is extremely modest and didn't tell anyone about this until her mum kindly let us know. Well done Wiktoria. We know one day we will see you treading the boards in the West End! Remember to come back and see us at IJS when you do!

If you would like to share something your child has done outside of school, please send a photo and details with the heading ACE Pupils to:

messages4teachers@ibstock.leics.sck.uk

Your Cricket Journey Starts at Ibstock Town Cricket Club!

Are you ready to swap the screen for the field? Ibstock Town Cricket Club is looking for the next generation of players to join our friendly, inclusive community at the Coronation Ground.

Whether you've never held a bat or you're a seasoned pro, we have a spot for you!

<https://ecb.clubspark.uk/Dynamos/ibstocktown/Course/85cdea4b-85d0-494a-8036-d2f12b9a3a82>

We are extremely grateful to ITC for allowing us to use their facilities in order to prepare our children for their cricket tournament. We would also like to thank former pupil, Seth Lakin for helping to coach and support our teams.

Y6 Residential - September 2026

Year 6 children (current Year 5s) will be visiting Whitemoor Lakes outdoor activity centre on [Monday 21st to Wednesday 23rd September, 2026](#).



The anticipated cost is £250 per child, which includes accommodation, transport, meals, and all activities. *There is a 10% discount off of the total price for children in receipt of Pupil Premium.*

A £50 deposit must be paid to secure your child's space.
This payment will go live on the Arbor app this week.

We are extremely excited to be offering this residential trip with a new provider at an estimated cost that is £80 cheaper per person than visiting previous providers.

Please email messages4teachers@ibstock.leics.sch.uk, if you have any questions about this residential trip.

Calling all Year 5 pupils! →

Don't forget to sign up for the Year 6 residential! This is a milestone event in every primary school child's education and is something they will remember for years to come. We need to have Year 5 pupils signed up, as current numbers mean the trip may not be able to take place. Please see the flier for details.