



Ibstock Junior School

January Newsletter

What a month January has been at Ibstock Junior School! All children have taken part in some amazing learning opportunities. From children showcasing determination and creativity, to teams and individuals being recognised for their hard work, it's been a month that truly highlights our ACE values! You will see on Page 3&4 that our children have collaborated in order to create an important behaviour charter, and we have updated our clubs information on Page 5. A definite highlight of the month was when Mr Stott and Mrs Whitehouse took two children to London, to collect our Regional Read Aloud Award for the THIRD year in a row!



This is an incredible achievement and highlights our belief that reading is central within our curriculum. 4039 books were read during last summer's challenge by the 142 children that took part. Maya and Leo attended the day as they topped the leaderboard for our school. They enjoyed meeting Clare Balding, hearing Morgan Bolding, an Olympic Rower speak about his difficulties learning to read (and holding his Gold Olympic Medal!) In their own words, Leo (Yr 3) said, "We had an amazing day. The train was my favourite part, but also the kindness". Maya (Yr 6) said, "the day was definitely not a normal one, but was a great one! I'm so happy we won!". She also added, "I don't think Mr Stott's favourite part was the train, as he really wasn't very good at any of the card games!"

After months of dedicated preparation, Tuesday 27th January marked an unforgettable milestone as 80 members of our Rockstars club travelled to Birmingham to perform as part of the 5,950-strong Young Voices 2026 choir. It was a long but exhilarating day, with a full afternoon rehearsal before we paused for tea. Then the arena lights dimmed, the spotlights burst into life, the professional performers took to the stage— and the show began! Our Rockstars were incredible. Their performance was truly spectacular, showcasing not only their outstanding singing and dancing talents, but also their exemplary behaviour and brilliant attitudes while representing our school. It was a night that all of us will remember. If you were lucky enough to be in the audience, we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did (and we're sure you'll agree that we definitely won the dance battle!) One thing is certain: we could not be prouder of every single performer. Rockstars — you're truly ACE!

Huge thanks to Mrs Hedges for all of her hard work and also to her army of parent/staff volunteers!



Six of our history ambassadors helped to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day, by leading a whole-school assembly. They introduced the theme of Bridging Generations, whereby the voice of survivors is passed down



to future generations. Children in Y6 then had the opportunity to work alongside Dr Amy Williams of Nottingham Trent University in examining witness testimonies provided by children who were part of the Kindertransport - an attempt to rescue young people from the horrors of WWII.



Three teams of children made the journey over to Ibstock School to take part in the KS2 Boccia competition.

The children took on teams from Woodstone and Broom Leys across the afternoon and performed brilliantly. Throughout the competition, the children showed great teamwork, respect for the opponent and attitudes to make us very proud! It was also amazing to see many former pupils supporting the event as Young Leaders at the event. At the end of the competition, the IJS Year 5 team were declared the winners and moved onto the next stage of the competition!





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Curriculum updates

Year 6 have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the frozen kingdoms. The topic began with a fascinating visit from a real-life polar explorer. The children heard a first-hand account of the perils of the polar regions, the animals you can encounter, and what measures you need to take to survive the extreme cold. The children have also delved into learning about famous polar explorers Shackleton, Scott, and Amundsen. This knowledge then informed their writing as they wrote a diary entry (as Scott himself) following his defeat in the race to the pole. As geographers, children learnt about the causes and effects of climate change and explored the geographical features of the polar regions, as well as conducting an in-depth study into the lives of the Inuit people and their art. As scientists, the children developed their classification skills by considering which polar animals fit into which vertebrate group and the adaptations of animals that allow them to live in such harsh conditions. Our next topic will be Davy Lamp, where the children explore our local history links to the mining industry; children will also investigate how light behaves in science lessons and the design process in DT, where they will collaborate to build a bridge.

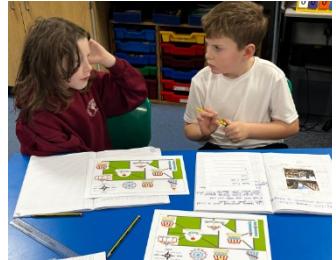


What an amazing historical journey **years 4 and 5** have been on during this block of our learning! We loved our trip to the King Richard III Visitor Centre and learning all about how this king came to be lost for over 500 years and, more importantly, how he was found so close to us here in Ibstock. We've found how to use spreadsheets to plan a pizza party and produced some spectacular art. Incredible practical maths work has



helped us understand how to calculate with big numbers and in English we have been learning how to complain more effectively - a skill which most of the children have been very good at! We are looking forward to our new topic of **Sow, Grow and Farm**, where we are going to discover all about different parts of the world and the foods and drinks that originate there through geography, D&T and science lessons, and we'll be moving on to the wonderful world of fractions in maths.

Year 3 have thoroughly enjoyed their topic of **Tremors**. Since Christmas, they have acquired a sound understanding of tectonic plates, layers of the Earth and the events in Pompeii in 79AD. They have developed a wealth of knowledge about tsunamis, earthquakes and volcanoes and have been writing informational leaflets in English about what to do in such emergencies. Their next topic is titled '**Plantasia**' and is set to have the children become botanists. From identifying plant parts to investigating germination and discovering unusual species, the children are sure to enjoy their learning. This topic will enable the children to develop their observational and research skills and hone their ability to conduct fair and precise experiments. We can't wait!



Y4 Penpals



On the first week back after the Christmas break, the children opened up their letters from their pen pals. Inside, each child received a letter, a little portrait of their penpal in Japan and some origami (hand made by the children themselves). The pupils have now started to write their responses back to the children in Japan and we look forward to sending out our 2nd letter in a few weeks.

Our thanks go to members of our local community who are supporting us in raising funds for our school. Firstly, a huge thanks to Julie & Simon Lees, whose 'Letter to Santa' campaign in December raised an incredible £200 for school funds!



Also thank you to Steven James, local Travel Consultant has very kindly agreed to pay any commission with holidays booked through him to Friends of Ibstock Junior School at no extra cost to our staff or parents. Please contact him on: 01530 543219 or at: Stephen.james@notjusttravel.com

Our ACE Pupils. We love to hear about all of the activities our children get up to our of school. Please send any information regarding this to:

messages4teachers@ibstock.leics.sch.uk

Congratulations to Izzy who competed in the Tamworth Dance Festival last weekend!



Well done to Evelyn who has been learning to embroider. Here is her first piece containing seven different embroidery stitches that she has already mastered!





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Dates for the Diary –	
01/02/26	Cross Country 10am Sir John Moore Primary
06/02/26	Number Day (dress up)
11/02/26	Year 6 Height and weight – school nurse teams
25/02/26	Class photos
02/03/26	Parents' evening
03/03/26	Year 6 trip to Warning Zone
04/03/26	Parents' evening - also dress down day
06/03/26	World Book day (for IJS) – no dressing up required
11/03/26	Chocolate Bingo
11/03/26	Year 3 trip to Botanical Gardens
24/03/26	Easter Disco
30/04/26	Year 4 overnight residential
11/05/26	SATS week Yr6
20/05/26	Sports' Morning
17/06/26	Area athletics (for selected children)
23/06/26	Summer Fair
30/06/26	Summer Disco
02/07/26	Transition Day
6/07/26	ACE Assemblies
6/07/26	Year 6 Leaving Do
9/07/26	Leavers Assemblies
10/07/26	INSET (school closed to pupils)

School Charter: High Expectations of Behaviour

The School Parliament have worked very hard to help to create a school charter, which helps children to understand our expectations of behaviour. The most important part of this charter is that is all of the ideas within it, have been created and chosen by the children of Ibstock Junior School.

Each Parliament member was given some discussion points to share with their peers in class. All of our children in school were given the opportunity to contribute their ideas. The Parliament members gathered a lot of information from their classes, and then we held further Parliament meetings, in which the most relevant and important suggestions were selected to appear on our charter.

Mr Carte then put the ideas together onto a poster, to create our charter, This has since been shared in assembly, led by the School Parliament. They did a fantastic job of speaking confidently in front of a rather large audience!

The leadership team have been keeping carefully monitoring the children, to check that they are following the ideas on the charter. So far, having focused on Year 6, we are delighted to report that Year 6 children have been entering our school buildings in a very mature, quiet and sensible way- this shows a huge collective improvement. Well done on a positive start! We shall now be paying close attention to some of our other year groups.

The next page shows our final version of the School Charter. We are very proud that our pupils created a highly useful document, which will inevitably have an impact on teaching and learning.



Ibstock Junior School Charter: high expectations of behaviour



In the classroom, what learning behaviour should I demonstrate?

Follow instructions straight away, and don't talk over people

Look at the adult or child speaking (active listening)

Have empty hands (*some children have concentration aids*)

Take responsibility for your own choices

Speak respectfully to all and use manners



Treat equipment with care and respect

Don't distract people e.g. tapping, whispering, being silly with friends

How should we behave at the end of play and lunch?

On the first whistle, stand still and in silence, and look towards the nearest adult

On the 2nd whistle, walk calmly to create a straight line, not touching anyone

When your adult collects you, walk in to school in silence



Walk to class sensibly and please don't squeak your shoes

Please stay to the left-hand side of stairs and don't jump down them

Walk to classrooms quietly (whispering voice only) to create a calm atmosphere

How should we behave in assemblies?

Thank people for holding a door (sign language, so it is quiet)

Walk with and sit next to a sensible friend or peer



Enter and exit the hall in silence, calmly

Stand in lines facing the front, until asked to sit down

Read and speak clearly, with confidence



How should I behave towards adults in school?

Every adult in school is important. Please allow adults through doors first.

Say hello to staff and smile (using names is polite); welcome visitors to school

Are there other important tips to share?

Please respect our school bathrooms: don't block sinks or toilets with paper

Please do not use the toilets to play in and chase people



When you go to the toilet, don't distract children in other classes

If you see someone becoming dysregulated, tell an adult

Follow the school lunch time rules – displayed around school

Clubs and extra-curricular activities overview

2025 - 2026

Club	Year group/s	Day of club	Time of club	Staff member leading	Other information
Spring term (6.1 – 27.3)					
Football taster sessions for boys	Year 4 & 5	Thursday	3.30-4.25 pm 29.1; 5.2; 12.2	Mr Carte	Some children will then be invited to join a smaller squad for the Rose Bowl cup
Rose Bowl football - boys	Year 4 & 5	Mondays from 23.2	After school	Mr Carte	Training will continue until we are knocked out of the competition. Parents will receive a forms link if their child is in the squad
Cooking club	Year 3 & 4	Thursdays	3:30 – 4:20: 29.1; 5.2; 12.2; 26.2; 12.3; 19.3	Miss Starkey and Mrs Breen	There is a small cost per session; places have been allocated
Pen pal with Japanese school	Year 4 & 5	Tbc	Lunchtime	Miss Thorpe	
Dance	Year 3	Mondays from 16.2	After school	Miss Wakelin	Collect from the hall at 4:20 pm 6 sessions in total
Badminton	Year 4 & 5	Tuesdays	After school 3.3; 10.3; 17.3; 24.3	External provider	There will be a small cost of approximately £1.50 - £2 per session
Summer term (13.4 – 9.7)					
Cricket	Year 5 & 6	Tbc	After school	Mr Hinsley	
Eco club project	Year 3, 4, 5, 6	Tbc	Lunch time	Mrs Craig	
Pen pal with Japanese school	Year 4 & 5	Tbc	lunchtime	Miss Thorpe	

Information for parents

- Term dates are included for parents' information – not all clubs will run for the entirety of a term.
- Some details may change due to competition dates changing
- Letters/Forms questionnaires will be sent out, including further details such as timings, start and end dates.
- For after school clubs, letters will be sent out at least one week before clubs commence.
- Most sports clubs are planned to prepare for local sports competitions. There are not many sports competitions for Year 3 children, which is why there are less sports clubs on offer for this year group.