



Ibstock Junior School

March Newsletter

What a wonderfully busy and memorable few weeks it has been at Ibstock Junior School! The past few weeks have been packed with exciting learning opportunities, special events, and plenty of visitors, some of which you can read about below. Our children have also been out and about on a variety of school trips, enriching their learning beyond the classroom and definitely fulfilling the 'enjoy' part of our school values. This month, we also proudly celebrated World Book Day, with our usual creativity whilst encompassing a shared love of reading.



You can read more about this below. March has also been busy for FIJS (Friends of Ibstock Junior School) who hosted a brilliant Chocolate Bingo evening and ended the term on a high with a fun-filled Easter Disco and Easter Raffle! Thank you as always, to the members of FIJS who work so tirelessly on behalf of our school. As we look ahead to the break, we want to thank all our families for their ongoing support. We wish you all a wonderful and relaxing Easter holiday! School re-opens for all children on **Monday 13th April**.

Curriculum updates: **Year 3** have had a blooming wonderful time this block, learning all about plants in our topic **Plantasia**. This included our trip to the Botanical Gardens in Leicester, where the children explored a variety of greenhouses and discovered how different environments help plants grow and survive. During their visit, the children collected natural materials from the woodland area and used them to create some impressive sculptures. They also had the opportunity to plant their own seeds to take home, putting their new knowledge into practice, as they learned what plants need to grow, survive, and thrive. In maths, they have been mastering fractions and becoming confident with their multiplications. We've also had some brilliant poems produced in our English lessons based on the poem 'The Sound Collector'. We collected the sounds of Ibstock Junior School to help us to master the skills of rhyming schemes. Next block, we're going to be exploring our artistic sides with our topic 'Light and Lowry'. We'll be looking at, and having a go at reproducing, work in the style of the artist, L.S. Lowry. We will also be doing quite a lot of science where we will be investigating how light travels. Year 3 had a fantastic time celebrating Science Week! As part of our whole-class reading VIPERS sessions, the children learned about a range of famous scientists and their important contributions. They also took part in an exciting live lesson, where they discovered just how fascinating water can be. Building on this, the children worked collaboratively on a fun challenge: using teamwork and communication skills to recreate an image by holding a peg attached to a pen, without speaking! The children thoroughly enjoyed all of the activities and showed great enthusiasm throughout the week. There are certainly many future scientists in Year 3!



In **Year 4 & 5**, children have been engaging well with their 'writing to inform' this block. They have written an informative piece on coffee farming, as well as instructions - don't be surprised if they start using imperative verbs with you at home! In maths, the children have been focusing on fractions. They have worked really hard at identifying fractions on a number line, as well as fractions of amounts. You may have also noticed your child bringing home some leek and potato soup that they have made here at school. This has concluded our topic for this block and we will be moving onto **Dynasties and Materials** - which involves a lot of fascinating history about the wonders of Ancient China as well as interesting scientific experiments!

Our **Year 6** topic in Block 4 has been **Davy Lamp**, where we have learned all about the life of a coal miner and significant developments in British industry, alongside local history links. We have also used our Design Technology skills to design, build, test, and evaluate bridges. The children are working hard in English, where they have been writing short stories linked to our class book, *The Nowhere Emporium*. In maths, the children have enjoyed their units on shape, statistics and perimeter, area and volume, alongside revising and developing their test techniques in preparation for the SATs. Our Block 5 topic will be **Evolution and Inheritance**. The children will work as scientists to learn how living things on Earth have changed over time; they will also learn how characteristics are passed from parents to their offspring and how variation in offspring can affect their survival. There is the opportunity for lots of art in this topic and children learn about observational drawing, mixed media collage and Pop Art, combining their skills to create a final piece of art inspired by bees, butterflies and beetles. Year 6 also visited the Warning Zone recently. The day was split into two halves, one focused on risks children can encounter in the real world, such as roads, water, trainlines, and electricity sub-stations. The other session focused on online risks and how children can keep themselves safe. In every scenario, children were encouraged to reflect upon the risk to themselves and others in a way that allows them to make positive choices both now and in the future. The children were engaged and learned a lot from the experience. Many thanks to the volunteers who came with us on the trip.





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British Science Week

The theme for this year's British Science Week was Curiosity, and the children at IJS demonstrated their curiosity in many ways throughout the week. All children in school were set a challenge to collaborate in groups of four to recreate a picture. Not so difficult, you might think; however, the groups had one pen, controlled by four pegs, and could not communicate on their first attempt. Let's just say the results were varied amongst groups, but the laughter was consistent throughout! All children also participated in two guided experiments led by 'STEMazing' via their Wonderful Water Workshop. The experiments were great fun and quite fascinating. Who would have thought that a 2p coin could hold 50 droplets of water? How curious!



Cooking Club

In the Year 3/4 cooking club this term, we have had some amazing creations. We have been baking a variety of different goodies including cookies, mug muffins, pitta pizzas and pancakes. We have also discovered that scones can be delicious when made with cheese. The children have been learning how to follow recipes, weigh ingredients, and all did an excellent job with helping with the washing up afterwards! Hopefully, they can share some of their new skills with their adults at home.



World Book Day



We always enjoy this special day at our school. The theme this year was, 'Go All In for Reading' and we certainly did that! Mrs Whitehouse and the Reading Ambassadors kicked things off with a very amusing assembly—where some teachers produced some Oscar-worthy acting performances! Then children really got creative and produced some amazing artwork that you will see if you visit school. The class canvas competition was won by the Ranchers class, who came up the idea of book characters standing together in homage to the infamous Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Album cover! The class celebrated their win last week by decorating biscuits based on ideas from their favourite books—and then eating them after! Children across school also enjoyed joining in with webinars with some of their favourite authors. We have had a number of request to purchase some new books following these, so we definitely achieved our aim of celebrating everything that is positive about reading!



BBC Radio Leicester

We were delighted to be approached by Radio Leicester to be included as part of their, 'School of the Week' feature. This week, if you tuned into Ady Dayman's Breakfast show, you will have heard some of our pupils and staff take part in a daily recording. The children involved: Georgia P, Phoebe W, Amelie S, Josh R, Seth S, George C and George P were all excellent ambassadors for our school and could easily have a future in broadcasting! We particularly enjoyed their views on the future of banknotes, celebrating their 'pupil's pet' (Miss Holman) and the epic Kids v Teachers. We are not sure Mr Stott and Mrs Whitehouse enjoyed the last of these quite as much! You can listen back, if you missed this, on BBC Sounds on catch-up.





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Beyond Bullying

Hopefully, you have all had the chance to look at our children's version of our Bullying Prevention Policy. This document was created with the children who form the Vice School Parliament; they are working closely with me to achieve the Beyond Bullying Award. As a group, we have met to discuss what the key messages for children are, looked at other schools' child-friendly policies (to decide what we liked and didn't), and the children have created illustrations.

The views of parents, and what they would find useful to discuss unkind/bullying behaviour at home, have also made a valued contribution to creating the document. We are proud to inform you that we have received positive feedback from the governors of the school, Leicestershire County Council, and our staff, who are finding it to be an extremely useful tool when discussing behaviour incidents with children. The policy is available on our website on our dedicated page, and there are paper copies available in the foyer. If you would like to provide feedback on our child-friendly Bullying Prevention Policy, please use the Forms link below or visit our website page.

<https://forms.office.com/e/Ly2ge1iAwj>

I look forward to sharing our progress towards the Beyond Bullying Award with you again soon.
Mrs. E. Collishaw (Anti-Bullying Lead Teacher)

Our ACE Pupils!

We are so impressed with the range of activities that our pupils take part in and excel in. ~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

Well done to...



Willow for her amazing cross-country achievements!



Marley for her 3rd place in her character solo!



Florence who came second in the county hockey tournament with her team from the Ashby hockey club!



Bonnie, Anaya and Lois for their incredible achievements in Karting, Tumbling and Diving!

What amazing pupils we have!



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Dates for the Diary –	
13/4/26	School re-opens for Summer Term
30/4/26	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)

KNIGHTS BASKETBALL

Now Welcoming New Players!

Looking for a fun, energetic and supportive environment for your child?

We're inviting new players of all abilities to join Castle Knights Basketball!

WEDNESDAY

Ivanhoe School, Ashby

🏀 11-14 Years (6.00-7.00pm)

THURSDAY

Castle Rock School, Coalville

🏀 5-7 Years (4.30pm-5.30pm)

🏀 8-10 Years (5.30pm-6.30pm)




REGISTER ONLINE
WWW.TAYPLAY.NET/BASKETBALL

01664 793263

@castleknightsbasketball





FAMILY DISCO

@ THE EMPORIUM

9TH APRIL

6.30PM TILL 8.30PM

£2 ADULTS / KIDS FREE

WWW.COALVILLECAN.COOP





Saturday 4th April
Easter Activities

10.00am to 12pm
at
St Denys Church



Come & join us for
fun activities based on the Easter story
also enjoy refreshments with us.

Event for Children 5 to 11yrs (please bring an adult with you.)
(Contact John 07531849877 for more details)

VINTAGE VIBES Party

@ THE EMPORIUM
BELVOIR ROAD, COALVILLE

THURSDAY
9TH APRIL
3.30 PM TILL 5.30PM

MAIN STAGE (TIFFANY'S):

- MELLY HEITH
- DJ JAMES WESTON PLAYS MOTOWN & NORTHERN SOUL
- MARLBOROUGH SQUARE COMMUNITY CHOIR

SMALL STAGE:

- HARL BLINHO
- MUSIC FROM THE 60S & 70S

TICKETS £2.50
inc. tea/coffee & a biscuit

scan to book tickets



WWW.COALVILLECAN.COOP

Tickets also available @ Coalville CAN HQ / Bright Hope



If anyone is considering booking a holiday, please consider contacting Steven James, a local travel agent who 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. As you know, school finances are particularly difficult across the country, so this is a very welcome offer. Thank you Steve. Steve can be contacted through the details posted here

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Your local travel expert with personal service



Steven James Personal Travel Consultant
01530 543219 steven.james@notjusttravel.com
www.stevenjames.notjusttravel.com

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CONTACT ME FOR A QUOTE TODAY!





From luxurious honeymoons to family-friendly adventures, here at Not Just Travel we can make your holiday dreams a reality. So, sit back, relax and let us take care of everything!

I help you turn your travel dreams into lifelong memories. Holidays may end, but the joy of sunsets, laughter and bucket list moments last forever. The best treatment you can make is in memories - and I'm here to help make them truly unforgettable.

Global Franchise award 2023

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TRAVEL AWARDS 2023

www.facebook.com/StevenJamesNT