



Ibstock Junior School

November Newsletter

Welcome to this month's newsletter. November has been a month of reflection and remembrance at Ibstock Junior School. We came together with other local schools to mark **Remembrance Day**, honoring those who have served and sacrificed. Some of our Reading Ambassadors read a poem at the Ibstock Community event and were also introduced to local MP, Amanda Hack. We also held our own silence (including at Forest School) in order to help our pupils understand the importance of this tradition. Children have also been involved in lots of other interesting curriculum learning, which you will read about below. Looking ahead, the excitement is building as we prepare for the **Christmas festivities!** Please check out the key dates to make sure children get involved in our Christmas singing evening, Christmas dinner and other special events. We are looking forward to sharing the joy of this time with our school community. At the same time, we also recognise those who may find this time of year particularly difficult. As part of this, we are asking families to donate new toys to the Co-op Toy Appeal. These toys will be distributed to local families. Please send toys in to school by the morning of **Friday 5th December**.



The school Eco-Council is committed to looking after the environment and took part in a litter-walk recently around the streets of Ibstock. We would like to thank North West Leicestershire County Council for providing them with the necessary equipment. They collected a wide range of items including plastic wrappers, bottles, cans, a broken skipping rope and left-over sparklers. They particularly enjoyed the friendly greetings from the people of Ibstock and the bin men whilst on their walk.



The Year 5/6 girls' football team secured their place in the knock-out stage of the Tony Moore Shield by beating Moira Primary 3-1. Two goals from Grace and a long-range effort from Layla secured a fantastic win for the team. All the girls played their part through hard work and determination, despite the cold weather!



An update on the pen pal letters for Japan! They have safely arrived at their destination and the children in Japan have loved learning a little bit about the children at our school. We will hopefully get a response back early in the new year and are excited to learn more about our pen pals in Japan!



Our ACE PUPILS! We love hearing about our children's achievements outside of school. Please send in information to: messages4teachers@ibstock.leics.sch.uk



In May 2024, Josh first tried archery during his Year 4 residential trip to Nottingham, where he achieved the highest score. His enthusiasm for the sport has only grown since. After completing a beginners' course in August 2025, Josh is now a proud member of Ivanhoe Archers in Ashby.



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Curriculum year group updates:

We are coming to the end of our exciting 'Tribal Tales' topic in **Year 3**, finishing with wonderful clay pottery inspired by the Beaker People – the children worked brilliantly and the results look fantastic! Our next topic, 'Tremors', takes us deep into the Earth. Children will learn about the structure of the Earth, volcanic activity and different types of soil. They will also study the events of Pompeii and use their knowledge to explore seismographs. In computing, they will continue to explore the importance of online safety. We'll be creating Christmas-themed letters linked to our class book 'The Christmasaurus' in our writing lessons. The children are already enjoying the story, and we can't wait to see the writing it inspires. We will focus on building confidence with times tables and begin a new maths unit on measurement, exploring the perimeter of different shapes and how to calculate it. There will be no dormant learning this block, the children will be erupting with knowledge!



In **Year 4 and 5**, we are really looking forward to **Block 3** and our new topic of 'Princes and Peasants'. During this block, we will be exploring medieval England, the monarchy from Edward III in 1216 to Richard the III in 1485, the battle of Hastings, the battle of Bosworth and what life would have been like for each tier on the hierarchy. Excitingly, we have an upcoming trip to the King Richard III Visitor Centre to learn all about his life, his death and debate the myths that surround his reign. The children will have the opportunity to also see the site where his body was exhumed and his burial site in Leicester Cathedral. In maths, we will be exploring multiplication and division, whilst making connections to our prior learning to help us solve problems. In English, we are writing to persuade with letters of complaint about King Richard III!

Year Six are looking forward to starting their new topic: **Frozen Kingdoms**, which will be launched by Simon the Explorer. He will share with the children information about his expeditions to the North and South Pole and will even share gruesome pictures of frostbite for those who are brave enough to look! The children will use their scientific skills to explore animal adaptations. They will use their geographical skills to think about climate zones, time zones and natural re-sourcing. Year Six will also explore what climate change means and how they can make positive choices to protect the environment. In writing, children will be producing diary entries based on historical figures who raced to reach the South Pole first. They will also be composing newspaper articles to inform their readers about significant events



IBSTOCK JUNIOR SCHOOL BOOK FAIR

Hunt's Bookshop is very excited to be bringing a Book Fair to Ibstock Junior School on **Wednesday 12th December**. The selection of books comprises of **new and traditional titles** plus **special signed copies**, making it the perfect opportunity to help you find your child's new favourite read, or a special Christmas gift. A **tray of books for parents/carers** will also be available throughout the Book Fair. Stocked full of **new releases, indie exclusives and signed copies**, we're sure to help you tick off your wish list and start helping hand with your Christmas shopping!

Visit our Book Fair every day after school from 9th until 12th December in the studio! Cash and card accepted. Why not pop in and pick up some gifts before the Christmas singing events!



10% percentage of proceeds will go towards the school.

Thank you for your support.

9 High Street, Rugby, CV21 3BG www.huntbookshop.com enquiry@huntbookshop.com

As part of our work to make sure every child feels welcome and included, we are excited to share that we are working towards the Leicestershire County Council Beyond Bullying Award. This award recognises positive work around friendship, behaviour and preventing bullying. As part of the process, we will be asking for feedback from the whole school community, including parents and carers, so look out for a Microsoft Forms link soon. We will also be sharing our updated Bullying Prevention Policy, along with a child-friendly version that is being developed with pupils. These will help everyone understand what bullying is, what it is not and the language we use in school when talking about unkind behaviour. Mrs E Collishaw





Dates/times

Dates for the Diary – new additions in red	
4/12/25	Richard III Trip Yr 4/5
5/12/25	Richard III Trip Yr 4/5
5/12/25	Last day to send in new toys for Coop appeal
9/12/25-12/12/25	Book Fair in school
10/12/25	Year 4 & 5 Singing
11/12/25	Year 3 & 6 Singing
12/12/25	Mid-year reports to parents via email
13/12/25	Cross Country 10am Moira Primary
15/12/25	VR headsets in school for the week
17/12/25	Christmas Dinner/wear something Christmassy Day
18/12/25	Christmas Disco
05/01/26	INSET (school closed to pupils)
07/01/26	Polar explorer visitor to Year 6
08/01/26	Polar explorer visitor to Year 6
27/01/26	Young Voices Concert
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
30/4/26	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)

Dear Parents and carers

Please find below confirmation of the dates for Rockstars/ Young Voices club over the next few weeks. There are other events happening in school, but the only date that there will be no club is Thursday 11th December. Every other term-time Thursday until 22nd January, the club will still be running until 4:20 even though there are trips and discos. Thank you.

Thursday 27th November - Club as normal until 4:20

Thursday 4th December - Club as normal until 4:20 (Years 4&5 are on a trip, but as this is in school time, the club will still be on)

Thursday 11th December - No Club due to Christmas singing in the Hall

Thursday 18th December - Club as normal until 4:20 (The disco does not start until later, so club will still be on.)

Thursday 8th January - Club as normal

Thursday 15th January - Club as normal

Thursday 22nd January - FINAL club

As you will see, this only makes 6 more club sessions before the big day! Therefore, it is really important that the children attend on every occasion possible. They are sounding spectacular, but please do encourage them to keep practising at home to ensure that they really know the words as there are no lyric sheets for the concert and so we need to be absolutely confident with both the words and the dance moves. Further details about the day itself will be sent in the new year. Thank you for your continued support.

Rachel Hedges

Christmas Singing Evening

Wednesday 10thth December - Artists/Mechanics

Approximate timings	Order of events
3:45 p.m.	Parents sign in and find a seat. Children go to classrooms
4:00 p.m.	Children perform songs and readings to parents
4:20 p.m.	Parents are welcome to stay for a mince pie and soft drink in the hall
4:40 p.m.	Hall will be cleared and prepared for the next performance

Wednesday 10th December - Archaeologists, Scientist & Farmers

Approximate timings	Order of events
5:00 p.m.	Parents sign in and find a seat. Children go to classrooms
5:15 p.m.	Children perform songs and readings to parents
5:35 p.m.	Parents are welcome to stay for a mince pie and soft drink in the hall
5:50 p.m.	Hall will be cleared and people leave the hall

Thursday 11th December - Year 3

Approximate timings	Order of events
3:45 p.m.	Parents sign in and find a seat. Children go to classrooms
4:00 p.m.	Children perform songs and readings to parents
4:20 p.m.	Parents are welcome to stay for a mince pie and soft drink in the hall
4:40 p.m.	Hall will be cleared and prepared for the next performance

Thursday 11th December - Year 6

Approximate timings	Order of events
5:00 p.m.	Parents sign in and find a seat. Children go to classrooms
5:15 p.m.	Children perform songs and readings to parents
5:35 p.m.	Parents are welcome to stay for a mince pie and soft drink in the hall
5:50 p.m.	Hall will be cleared and people leave the hall

Year 5 parents please scan the code below to complete information regarding swimming.

Year 5 - Swimming certification

