



Ibstock Junior School February Newsletter

Despite the fact there's only been four weeks since our last Newsletter (and only three of those in school) we still have lots to share with our community. Below, you will find updated dates and information about our enrichment clubs. We also have had lots to enjoy, not least our wonderful Number Day and the work of our Eco-Council. Thank you to Miss Brett, Miss Wakelin and Mrs Craig for all of their hard work. Since our last Newsletter, we have also been made aware that we have a child in school with a severe nut allergy. This therefore means we need to ensure **no nuts or products containing nuts are brought into school**. This also includes chocolate spread, as this may contain nuts or have been made in an environment where nuts are present. Thank you for supporting us with this.



It would not feel right to send this out, without a special mention of our lovely Mrs Yeatman, who died this week. Mrs Yeatman was a much-loved member of our school staff and was the smiling face that greeted many of you each day. In due time, we will consult with Mrs Yeatman's family, as to how they would like school to celebrate her life. In the mean time, we will continue to do our best to continue with helping our children to be ACE, as we know Mrs Yeatman cared for each and every one of the children in our school, past and present, always striving to make sure they were happy and safe. She will, of course, be missed by us all tremendously.

Check out the new badges for the Eco-Council, worn by some of our council members here! Make sure to ask the council members for some top tips on how to look after the environment when you see them walking around school with their badges. A huge thank you to Rebecca (Trinity's mum) and Mrs Bond for making the badges in the most sustainable way.



As part of the NWL school cross-country league, we have had a fantastic season this year-even with only 3 races: in the Year 5 Girls, Willow won gold and Tilly won bronze. In Year 3, Oliver won silver and Amber won bronze. Thanks to Willow, Tilly and Anaya, our Year 5 girls retained the team trophy for the second year in a row and we also have 8 children going to the KS2 county finals! Well done to all our runners and thank you to the adults who have supported them.



Our ACE Pupils. Well done to Bodhi in Year 3 who score top marks from the adjudicator at Tamworth Festival was told she was, 'born to be a ballerina'



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

messages4teachers@ibstock.leics.sch.uk



dominoes, whole number costumes and so much more! Throughout the day, the children took part in various aspects of maths that they might not get the chance to in everyday lessons. The children produced beautiful pieces of artwork based on line and symmetry, collected data for pictograms, solved puzzles, played games and



On the 6th February we celebrated Number Day and what an exceptional day it was! This year we added in 'Dress up for Digits' and the children did not disappoint, dressing in sports kits, dice,



even got to show off their darts skills. In addition to these activities, we took part on the national TTRS competition and competed against schools across the country. We are incredibly proud to announce that we came 34th in England and 4th place in the East Midlands, with a whopping 143,624 correct answers. Incredible! We are so proud of our IJS pupils and we are already on the count down for next year.



February Newsletter

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
Tag rugby	Year 3 & 4	Wednesdays	After school 29.4; 6.5; 13.5; 20.5; 3.6	Mr Stott	Take place on the field
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.

Dates for the Diary –

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)

In assembly this morning, we waved goodbye to two members of staff, albeit temporarily in one case!

Miss Heveran is leaving us temporarily, as next week we welcome Miss Wilkinson back from maternity leave. Miss Wilkinson will be Lava class teacher. Miss Heveran will rejoin us when Miss Starkey begins her maternity leave and will become Flint class teacher.



We also say a goodbye to Ms Smith who is leaving IJS, in order to focus on her Dog Boarding business. Ms Smith has worked at IJS for 14 years and we

are all going to miss her, but know she will keep in touch and hopefully pop in and visit! Thank you Ms Smith for all of your hard work throughout your years here.



February Newsletter

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalsafety.org for further guides, links and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about WHATSAPP

With more than two billion active users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients; not even WhatsApp itself can read them. This privacy issue has been in the spotlight recently, as the UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging; WhatsApp is unwilling to do so and has reportedly considered withdrawing its service in the UK should this legislation go ahead.

16+ In UK and Europe, real of the world 16+

...MSG ME...

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EVOLVING SCAMS
WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a supposed 'emergency'. Plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS
To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user that they want to message. If your child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that your child might be added to a group chat (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people that they don't know.

FAKE NEWS
WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allows news to be shared rapidly - whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a 'Forwarded many times' label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original, and might not be entirely factual, either.

ONLINE

'VIEW ONCE' CONTENT
The facility to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate images or obscene films, knowing that the recipient can't re-open them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this 'disappearing' content - but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing increased privacy.

CHAT LOCK
Another new option allows users to store certain messages or chats in a separate 'locked chat' folder, secured behind a passcode, fingerprint or face ID authentication. The idea here is that this function creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content that they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of (such as age-inappropriate material).

VISIBLE LOCATION
WhatsApp's 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child's safety on the way home, for example. However, anyone in your child's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location - potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

Advice for Parents & Carers ...TYPING...

EMPHASISE CAUTION
Encourage your child to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider, for example, whether the message sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

THINKING BEFORE SHARING
Help your child to understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding anything on WhatsApp. It's easy - and all too common - for content to then be shared more widely (even publicly on social media). Encourage your child to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS
It's wise to change your child's WhatsApp settings (go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups') to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without seeking approval; you can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...'. Additionally, if your child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need - and then turn it off.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY
Some parents like to check in with their child about how they're using WhatsApp, explaining that it will help to keep them safe. If you spot a 'Locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of chats that are in there, who they're with and why your child wants to keep them hidden. Also, if your child has sent any 'view once' content, you could discuss their reasons for using this feature.

Meet Our Expert
Dr Claire Buchanan is an online safety specialist, education and researcher who has developed or co-developed and peer-reviewed online safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government concerning internet use and online behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

...HEY OSCAR...

NOS National Online Safety

A high resolution poster can be found at: <https://nationalcollege.com/experts/national-online-safety>

Please read this. We have recently had lots of concerns with children bringing issues into school that have originated on WhatsApp groups.

As you can see, the recommended age for WhatsApp is 16years old. We will always encourage children not to use this whilst they are in primary school. If you choose to allow your child, there may be issues that can not be resolved in school. Please also familiarise yourself with issues shown on the poster.

Unfortunately, we have been informed that the swimming pool at Ibstock School is unavailable for use until later this academic year. We are currently investigating alternatives in the meantime and we will be in touch once we have a solution.

Wildcats
WILDCATS GIRLS FOOTBALL

WILDCATS GIRLS FOOTBALL
SATURDAYS 10:15AM - 11:00AM

OPEN TO GIRLS AGED 5 - 11
ALL ABILITIES

- ✓ NONE COMPETITIVE
- ✓ MEET NEW FRIENDS
- ✓ HAVE LOTS OF FUN
- ✓ BOOST CONFIDENCE
- ✓ PROGRESS TO A GIRLS TEAM IF INTERESTED...NO PRESSURE!

HEATHER

HEATHER ST JOHN'S FC TRAINING PITCHES, LEICESTERSHIRE, LE67 2QJ
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT RACHEL ON 07917 654 877
EMAIL VICECHAIRMAN.HEATHERJUNIORS@GMAIL.COM