



# Ibstock Junior School

## February Newsletter

Block 4 of our school curriculum year is already well underway and children have been experiencing some great learning opportunities, some of which you will read about below. Mr Lewin led an assembly at the start of the block to introduce our next inspirational person: Malala Yousafzai. One of Malala's many achievements include the skill of being able to **speak confidently**. Therefore this block, we are asking all children to try and work on that skill. You may see children arriving home with stickers and ACE slips that show they have been working hard in this area.

We are aware that many of our children are accessing social media apps/sites even though they are underage. We appreciate that this is ultimately a parental decision, but would still advise parents to ensure that they are aware of the age limits and security/privacy complexities of each app. You can find further information about this on our website: <https://www.ibstockjuniorschool.co.uk/e-safety>

The school is currently in the process of moving to a new communication system called Arbor. Those of you with children at ICC will already be familiar with this. We believe that Arbor will help to improve communications and efficiency for our parents. We will keep you informed of developments.

We seem to be gathering a rather large collection of unlabelled children's uniform. Please can we ask you to ensure children's clothes are marked with their name, or we may be unable to reunite them with their lost clothing and eventually have to remove clothing from school. On the subject of clothing, Mrs McCarty is organising a school charity clothing collection to take place on Monday 11th March—please see the flier at the end of the newsletter with regards to this.



On February the 8th, Ibstock Junior School were visited by an Olympic medal-winning swimmer, Amy Smith. Amy came into school to conduct an assembly and lead the children with participating in some physical activity. Children (and staff) found this to be a really inspirational morning, as Amy was able to describe to us all how she suffered set backs in her career, but it didn't stop her working towards her goal. She really was the embodiment of our **ACE** values. The children were exhausted by the time they were finished, but all worked really hard! The purpose of the event was to raise money to support physical activity and mental well-being in schools and for athletes and para-athletes to continue to inspire the next generation.

In total, Ibstock Junior School has raised an amazing

**£4861.51!** We are extremely grateful for your kindness and generosity in raising this amount of money and are incredibly proud of our strong IJS community. We are also very grateful to Mr Colver for leading and organising this brilliant event for our school community.



**Cross-country** - After 4 fantastic races, we are delighted to announce that we have 5 children, who have been invited to take part in the County Final in early March AND our runners received 2 golds and 1 bronze medal for their races across the league. Well done to Freddie, Theo and Matilda, pictured here with their awards following a ceremony at Sir John Moore's School. What an excellent season we have had! Thank you to everyone that was involved, including families who turn out on cold, wintry mornings to support our children! Thank you too, to Mr Stott for his organisation and for giving of his time on a Saturday morning to support IJS children.



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Earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis have been a hot topic in **Year 3**. We have been exploring why tsunamis happen and we even made a model in groups. The children have looked at tectonic plates and how these create natural disasters and mountain ranges. This information has been vital for our recent independent writing: 'What is a Volcano?' The children thoroughly enjoyed writing these information leaflets and have used key ingredients in their writing such as: 'relative clauses', expanded noun phrases and formal language. In maths, the children have been consolidating their 4 written calculations and beginning to look at perimeter. The children have enjoyed using their 4 written methods with reasoning and problem-solving questions.

In **Year 4**, we have been learning all about changes of state. During our first few lessons of this science-based topic, we explored the three states of matter, the properties of each and sorted different materials into categories depending on whether they were a solid, liquid or gas. We even discovered that there are some unusual materials, which we were allowed to handle, like foams, gels and powders. They are unusual because they have properties of more than one state. We have discovered that chocolate has a slightly lower melting point than the temperature of the human body when we watched a chocolate button slowly melt in the palm of our hands. During this lesson, we learned about how temperature changes cause the processes of melting, freezing, condensing and evaporating, resulting in changes of state. There's lots more to come, including an experiment to see if we can affect the rate at which ice melts and creating chemical reactions when we design and make our very own bath bombs in design technology. In writing, we are currently discovering how to write an effective fictional conversation, which involves learning how to use direct speech to convey the character's thoughts to the audience. In maths, we have recently learned how to use short division to divide (including how to manage remainders) and have been exploring the wonderful world of fractions too. Haven't we been busy?

**Year 5** have been learning all about play scripts this month and the children have been unleashing their inner Shakespeare. We have looked at various play scripts and it is clear that we have some very talented performers! In our topic this month, we are looking at another ancient civilisation - The Shang Dynasty - alongside scientifically investigating the various properties of materials. The children have also been eagerly putting ideas together for World Book Day, where we will be decorating our doors. Keep an eye out for any unusual requests for materials (if not needed at home) that could be useful for this event.

In **year 6** our topic is **Davy Lamp**, where we are learning about a significant time in British history - the coal industry and how it fuelled the industrial revolution. We are learning about the timeline of the coal industry and important events within it, such as the invention of the Davy Lamp. This was a safety lamp designed by Humphry Davy, to reduce the risk of explosion and fire when working underground. Our lessons will teach us about how child labour was once part of the mining industry. We will explore the harrowing accounts of children who worked in the mines in 1842 and teach each other, through role play, their stories. Coal mining in Leicestershire spanned a timescale of eight centuries from about the year 1200 to 1991, when the last colliery, at Bagworth closed. This topic also provides us with an opportunity to connect with our own local history and we will learn about the Whitwick colliery disaster (1898). Conversely, as we use empathy and imagination to picture ourselves in the never ending darkness of the mines, we are also learning about light in our science lessons. Retrieving our previous learning from Year 3, we are building upon our knowledge of how light travels, to learn how we perceive colour and how light behaves when reflected. Finally in topic, we will complete a sequence of DT lessons on bridges and what materials and structures make for the strongest type of bridge. We will follow the plan, design, make and evaluate model to complete this.

Don't forget to enter our Knowledge Organiser quiz, to be in with a chance of winning a box of chocolates and an ACE slip! Well done to January's winners: **Fehn T, Mia S-T, Sapphire W and Nathaniel C**  
Simply complete your answer on the link here: <https://forms.office.com/e/BEPJnv8P8U>

Year 3: When tectonic plates slide next to each other, what does it cause?

Year 4: What is the process called in which a gas changes state into a liquid when it is cooled?

Year 5: What was found at the Yinxu dig?

Year 6: What significant event in the time line of coal mining history took place in 1984?



**Dates to note. (New dates or changes from last newsletter in red)**

Parents' Evenings 04.03.24 & 06.03.24

World Book Day Celebration 08.03.24

**Rags to Riches Clothing Collection 11.03.24**

FIJS Easter Disco 14.03.24

Dress down for Chocolate Bingo 15.03.24

Yr 3 Botanic Gardens Trip 18.3.24

FIJS Chocolate Bingo 20.03.24

School closes for Easter 22.03.24

**Summer Term**

Children return to school at 8:40am 08.04.24

Block 5 begins 08.04.23

**Class Photos 26.04.23**

Yr 6 SATs Week 13.05.24 - 16.05.24





# February Newsletter

## Messages from the School Ambassadors: writing ambassadors

Our writing ambassadors were set the challenge of finding some excellent writing from across the school, and choosing the best sentences they could find. They have spent time looking through lots of books and chose the sentences below to share with families in this Newsletter. They were looking to give different reasons for why the writing was of a very high standard.

Volcanoes-which are named after the Roman fire god Vulcan-are usually found near the ring of fire by the Pacific Plate. (Jessica FM, Year 3) excellent use of embedded clause to give extra information

The wobbly, unstable bridge, with ropes holding the sides, was not easy to cross. (Phoebe W, Year 4) Very good detailed sentences

Bear Barked, "I will push you off this bridge because I'm not going anywhere!" (Josh R, Year 4) Excellent use of punctuation

Beyond the thick foliage in the rainforest, sat a pristine, picturesque paradise of life. (Finlay J, Year 5) Great detail and strong vocabulary

The aroma of earth and moss mingled with the sweet scent of blooming flowers and fresh water, creating a wonderous, refreshing smell. (Thea A, Year 5) correct use of commas and strong, detailed sentences

The marvelous glass dome's sunlight was illuminating the majestic interior. (Aafia F, Year 6) strong vocabulary choice.

The ambassadors also wanted to share beautiful joined-up handwriting. See examples below from Emily B (left) and William (right, who has worked hard to improved his). This is the standard that is needed in order to reach Age Related Expectation for writing in Yr6.

Dear United Nations,

I ~~wish~~ thought I would never have to write this letter but I do not have a choice. I am writing this to inform you, that not enough action ~~has been~~ is being taken on preventing the devastating consequences of climate change. I am hoping that you know all about climate and just how dangerous it is. In this letter, I highlight some of the most issues caused by climate change. I hope you take these matters seriously and stop the negative impact that this is having on our world.

I am writing to you all humans of planet Earth to express my opinion on the horrible and inconsiderate things you people are doing. ~~doing~~ Your reckless actions are destroying everything there. There are multiple ways you can impact and help. Can you find it in your heart to help me before it is too late.

Due to you humans being forced to chop down trees in my forests to create land and build places, ~~you~~ might think it is good but you are actually destroying the planet. Trees produce oxygen which is needed for humans. ~~How~~ they produce it by sucking up the carbon dioxide ( $CO_2$ ) and producing oxygen. So what you can do to help this? You can plant some trees anywhere like your garden a public park anywhere you can. So can you help the forest before it gets worse.

Thank you to our ambassadors for your hard work: Betsy G, Eleanor B, Maddie W and Ellie W

# Raise funds by collecting reusable clothes



**Our school is raising money by collecting reusable clothes.**

Please help us by donating your unwanted reusable clothes and accessories.  
Donated items become affordable clothing and accessories.

## **WE ACCEPT CLEAN, GOOD QUALITY, DRY, REUSABLE CLOTHING**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adults, Childrens & Babies Clothing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jewellery and Accessories |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paired Shoes and Footwear           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Belts and Handbags        |

A full list of reusable items is listed on our website  
[www.rags2riches4schools.co.uk](http://www.rags2riches4schools.co.uk)

## **WE DO NOT ACCEPT**

**POOR QUALITY ITEMS SUCH AS  
DIRTY, WET, RIPPED OR SOILED  
CLOTHES.  
PILLOWS, DUVETS, CURTAINS,  
BOOKS CDs OR ANY UNIFORM**

Please use the clothing bag provided.  
You can also use any additional bag if required.

**Collection Date:**

**Monday 11th March**

**Please remember - NO UNIFORM**

