



Ibstock Junior School

October Newsletter

Welcome to this month's edition of our newsletter. It has been a busy month and there has been lots of activity in school to update you on. This newsletter includes important dates, recent visits and information regarding our curriculum. As ever, we are so proud of our pupils. Everyday, we see evidence of them achieving, collaborating and enjoying our school life. ACE! We are equally lucky to have the support of their families—thank you for this.

It is important to us that our reputation in the community is also ACE. To this end, please be respectful of our neighbours. The staff at RISE gym have been really supportive of our school, allowing for some of our football teams to park during some of their quieter times. Recently, they have been struggling with parents parking at drop off and pick up times, but this week, it was also impossible for customers to park when parents used it to drop off children for the Halloween disco. Please avoid doing this. We know parking is difficult, but it is unfair for local business to be negatively impacted by our school events. Please walk children to school, whenever possible.

Over the next couple of weeks, we will be selling Poppies to children, so that they can remember and pay respect to those who have served in the armed forces, especially during times of war. We will also hold the traditional remembrance silence in school, as well as taking part in events around the community. Please send your children in with some change if they wish to purchase anything from our Year 6 Poppy sellers. All money taken will be given to the Royal British Legion.

Year 6 will be focusing on history, as they delve into learning about **World War II** this block. They will explore the causes of the war and discover how young children were evacuated in the wake of German bombing campaigns. As a local history link, the children will visit Beaumanor Hall, which played a critical role in intercepting German communications and helping to save the lives of thousands during the war. Linked into this topic, children will have the opportunity to build a replica Anderson Shelter in small groups, so if you have any cardboard at home - please send it into school with your child! The war will serve as a writing stimulus, too, as the children write from the perspective of a soldier on the frontlines.

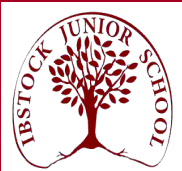


Year 6 children also scaled new heights, as they took on the many challenges of a residential visit! For some of the children, this was the longest they had spent away from home, so it was a real test of their resilience as they - quite literally - threw themselves into activities such as abseiling, paddle-boarding and zip-lining! The children were really well behaved, and the teachers even managed to get a decent sleep on the first evening, which is usually unheard of for residential visits! Children who did not attend had an equally fun week at school, culminating in a pizza and pyjama party.



For Block 2, **Year 4 and 5** are exploring ancient history in our topic Ancient Civilisations. We are going to look back at the Ancient Sumerians, Egyptians and Indus Valley People. Through this topic, we will learn about how these people left a lasting impression on our society, learn about hierarchy and explore various design and technology concepts that changed the world. In writing, we are writing to entertain using setting and character descriptions and in maths, we are delving into calculation methods and knowledge of numbers and multiplication tables. Block 2 will also see us learn new skills in handball and gymnastics, as well as finely tune our musical talents and French vocabulary. Our new Year 4/5 Pen Pal Club is also officially underway! Pupils have been attending the weekly club, working hard, writing their draft letters and coming up with lots of amazing questions they want to find out about from the children in Japan. In the next few weeks, the letters are going to be written up sent off to the other side of the world! We look forward to their responses and we are very excited for this block!

Get ready for an epic adventure through prehistory! In our next exciting unit, Tribal Tales, **Year 3** will be travelling back thousands of years to discover what life was really like from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. As curious historians, the children will explore fascinating questions such as: What was life like in the Stone Age? What can we uncover from ancient artefacts and mysterious cave paintings? How did clever inventions change the way people lived? As creative artists, they'll learn about the Bell Beaker folk and get hands-on with clay to design and make their own Bell Beaker pottery. In English, they will be putting their writing skills to the test writing instructions on 'How to wash a woolly mammoth!' It's going to be a roaringly good unit - we can't wait to sink our sabre teeth into it!



October Newsletter



What a 'frightfully' good night we had on Wednesday celebrating Halloween! Children had lots of fun and there were some spookily excellent costumes! Thank you so much to all of the staff that gave up their evening to support this event and the Friends of ~Ibstock Junior school volunteers. Events like this can not happen without adult support, so do let us know if you can spare any time for future events.



Community giving.

Our parliament members have decided to help donate to the Co-op's Christmas fundraising appeal this year. We will be collecting brand new toys that will be sent to underprivileged children within our local area. Please send in toys with your children from Monday 3rd November. Parliament members will collect these from classrooms and they will take them to the Coop on Friday 5th December.



Free School Meals - if you think your child may be eligible for Free School meals please call the Free School Meal team on 0116 305 5417. They can confirm if you are eligible in a quick phone call, you will need your National Insurance number when you call.

*** School Parliament Tuck Shop starts on Wed 5th November!***

Showing kindness and empathy

This month, children will be learning about and being rewarded for **showing empathy and kindness**. Some children who show this regularly this will be awarded certificates in our C.O.L.A (Celebration of Learning Award) Assembly later this block (December 5th) and your child may receive stickers and an ACE golden slip for this during the next few weeks too. Our inspirational person for this block is Paddington Bear - someone who very definitely shows empathy & kindness!



We are extremely proud to announce that for the 3rd Year running, we have won the regional award for the National Read-Aloud Challenge and have been invited to London to collect our award in January.



A particular well done to Leo, Mia, Maya, Molly and Tilly who achieved a fantastic amount of reading awards using this, during the summer.

Parents Evening and parental survey

Thank you for the high turn out at parents evening. It was lovely to see so many parents in school working with us to support their child's learning. We were also delighted to have 183 parents responded to our survey at parents evening where we learned that:

95% of year 3 parents/carers think their child has settled in to school really well or well

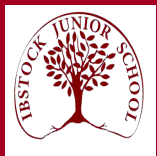
92% of parents in Years 4 and 5 are enjoying being in their class and have no concerns about being in mixed year groups

88% of parents who replied said they use the newsletter to find out what is going on in school

86% of the parents who have used the new Messages4Teachers email address to communicate with teachers feel it has improved things.

35% of people we asked did not know they could send messages more quickly to teachers by using Messages4Teachers (messages4teachers@ibstock.leics.sch.uk)

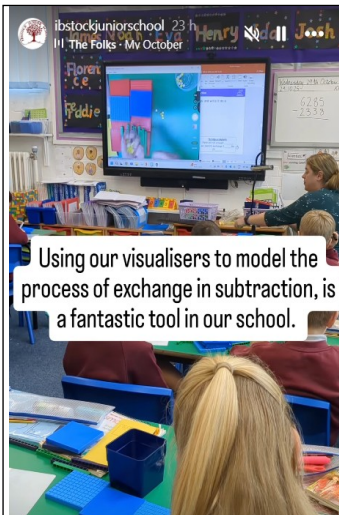




October Newsletter

Congratulations!

This week, Mrs Johnston and Mrs Satchwell hit an amazing milestone - they have worked at Ibstock Junior School for 25 years! Thank you to them both, for their commitment, enthusiasm and dedication. They have supported literally thousands of children in that time.



Using our visualisers to model the process of exchange in subtraction, is a fantastic tool in our school.

Stay in touch!



Follow us on Instagram under 'ibstockjuniorschool' to see regular updates, such as this recent story, of life in school. Trip and visitor photos also appear here.

Please also check emails and add Arbor and messages4teachers@ibstock.leics.sch.uk to your trusted sender lists to avoid messages going to junk mail.

Dates for the Diary – new additions in red

01/11/25	Cross Country 10am Sir John Moore Primary
03/11/25	Year 6 Trip to Beaumanor
03/11/25	Kirby Shield football match Vs Willesley
21/11/25	Dress down day
26/11/25	Chocolate Bingo
3/12/25	Last day to send in new toys for Coop appeal
4/12/25	Richard III Trip Yr 4/5
5/12/25	Richard III Trip Yr 4/5
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
13/12/25	Cross Country 10am Moira Primary
15/12/25	VR headsets in school for the week
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)
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)

Number Day

Next year, we are excited to once again celebrate Number Day. This really fits in with our school priorities, as we are really keen that all children know their multiplication facts. We are eagerly counting down to Number day 2026 and we are hoping to go even bigger and better than last year! On the 6th February 2026 we will be asking the children to dress in their favourite number, which could be a favourite sports top or cap, or even a onesie. You could get more creative and design a unique t-shirt, hat or even become a human-sized calculator or dice- all we ask is that you do not purchase something new. More details about the day and our activities will be sent out after the Christmas holidays.



Our ACE pupils! We love to hear about our children's achievements outside of school. Please send information regarding this to the following email address marking it as 'Newsletter':

message4teachers@ibstock.leics.sch.uk

Well done to:



Tilly S for organising a beach clean with the Marine Conservation Society. With the help of friends she managed to collect 10kg of rubbish!



Bonnie S for her growing confidence with Go-Karting. She will be competing in the UK kart championships next year!



Logan M who walked 10km for Macmillan cancer support in Birmingham. He presented it to the class saying I did 10k and it's good because "I didn't even moan once!"

Ellie N for her 'Pumpkin Olympics' achievements. Medals included: 1st for bowling, 2nd for accurate throwing, and thirds for pumpkin weightlifting, relay race and pumpkin shy!

