



Ibstock Junior School

September Newsletter

Welcome to our first newsletter of the new academic year. These are published monthly and we try to include information about what your child has been and will be learning, as well as key dates and reminders. You can also check our website for curriculum plans and essential information. (<https://www.ibstockjuniorschool.co.uk>.) It has been lovely to be back at school this month. Year 3 have settled in incredibly quickly and each class enjoyed celebrating their chosen theme on dress-up day; so did many of their teachers! We are looking forwards to seeing many of our families next week during our open afternoons. Thank you for your continuing support. Thanks also to those that completed the survey we sent out before the summer break. One of the areas that we would like to improve based on the feedback given in the survey, is parental communication. We have already begun work on that and launched our new Communication Flowchart (see back page). Please remember if you have a message for a teacher, either speak to them on the playground or email:

Messages4teachers@ibstock.leics.sch.uk as this is the only way we can ensure that a teacher responds within 48 working hours.



Year 6 got off to an exciting, if somewhat gory start to their first topic - **Blood Heart**. The children dissected sheep's hearts (they are similar in size and structure to a human heart) in their first topic lesson; as well as being wowed, the pupils gained first hand knowledge of the structure of the heart. This understanding will underpin our subsequent learning about the circulatory system, including positive and negative lifestyle choices that can impact our heart health, such as the effects of exercise and how to prepare and cook healthy meals. We will also be looking at significant, black artists during this block and replicating their techniques to produce a piece of art in our Trailblazers art unit. In computing, we will explore online safety and how to avoid phishing scams. In English, we are currently practising our writing to inform skills in an explanation text and will also complete a biography and a play script. In maths, we have enjoyed learning about position and direction, where we have used our knowledge of coordinates to annihilate each other's fleet in battleships. We will be moving onto place value, whilst developing our arithmetic skills. We hope you will be able to join us for our open afternoon next week.



It has been a very busy start to the year in **Year 4/5**! We have spent lots of time getting to know each other, settling in to our new classes and we are now diving-head first into our learning. This block, our topic is **Stargazers** and it began with a fantastic visit from the National Space Centre, who taught us about the Sun, Earth and Moon. In writing, we have used our new knowledge of space to write a non chronological report about the International Space Station and how the astronauts live, work and even go to the toilet, whilst orbiting the Earth. In maths, we have explored the place value of numbers, ranging from 1000 to 100,000. We can now read and write numbers, as well as explain the value of any given digit. We are looking forward to welcoming our parents and carers to our open afternoon, discovering more about space and the astronomers who studied the universe and using rounding to estimate the answers to new calculations.





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Year 3 have had a great first few weeks at junior school and seem to be settling in well! We have already been doing lots of practical learning, including designing, cooking, and EATING our own healthy tacos. In English, the children have been impressing us with their handwriting and sentences. We have been using colourful semantics to look at the different parts of a sentence to ensure that we become brilliant writers. In maths, we have been building our knowledge of place value and the children have been amazing us with their presentation.



Important: please can all parents update their children's details using the Arbor app. Please refer to the email from the office that shows how to add contacts, medical issues, allergy information and dietary requirements.

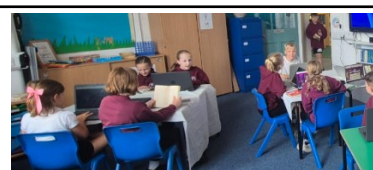


A.C.E Pupil!

Sophie in Year 6 went a special Q&A event with her favourite author A.F Steadman who has written the Skandar series. She managed to ask a question, receive a personal signed book and have a photo with the author. Please do send us information regarding your children's out of school achievements.

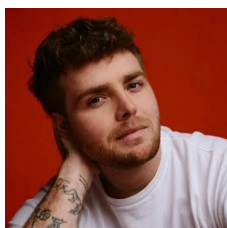
Homework Club

Our homework club runs every Tuesday lunchtime. This is a drop-in session where a teacher is available. Children can complete homework and ask for help if it is needed.



Resilience

This month, children have been learning about and being rewarded for their resilience. Some children who show this will be awarded certificates in our C.O.L.A (Celebration of Learning Award) Assembly later this block and your child may have received an ACE golden slip for this too. We studied the life of Alex Warren, a singer and songwriter who has been extremely successful, despite his difficult start in life.



On the survey we sent out in summer, some parents were unaware who our school SENDCo is. This is Mrs Lewin, who works in school on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. There is lots of information regarding our provision at <https://www.ibstockjuniorschool.co.uk/parents/send-information>



If you have concerns that you would like to discuss regarding your child's needs, please email Mrs Lewin at SENAdmin@ibstock.leics.sch.uk.

PE information

Your child will be taking part in PE on the following days:

Year 3 - Mon & Weds

Year 4/5 (Artists, Farmers, Scientists Tue & Fri

Year 4/5 (Archaeologists & Mechanics) Tues & Thur

Year 6 - Wed & Fri

On your child's PE day, please send them in wearing their PE kit which includes the school hoody. If it is a cold day, we advise that they wear suitable dark tracksuit bottoms or leggings. If your child doesn't currently have dark trousers, please purchase some as soon as possible. Your child will also need to bring a pair of shoes that they can change into after PE.

If your child wears earrings he/she should remove them, store them and put them in either after the session, or at home. Please help your children practise this if need be and bring in a sealed container for their earrings to be kept in. Please note we do not allow children to use tape to cover earrings.

General Information

Reading: children have reading lessons every day and adults listen to them read according to our school policies. Unlike St Denys, adults won't be recording this information in diaries. This does not mean we aren't helping or supporting children with reading. Please encourage all children to read as part of their weekly homework.

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. New year 3 children are not automatically entitled to Free School Meals.

Uniform - we have a number of preloved items (for free) in school if you need anything. Please remember to label your child's uniform with their name.

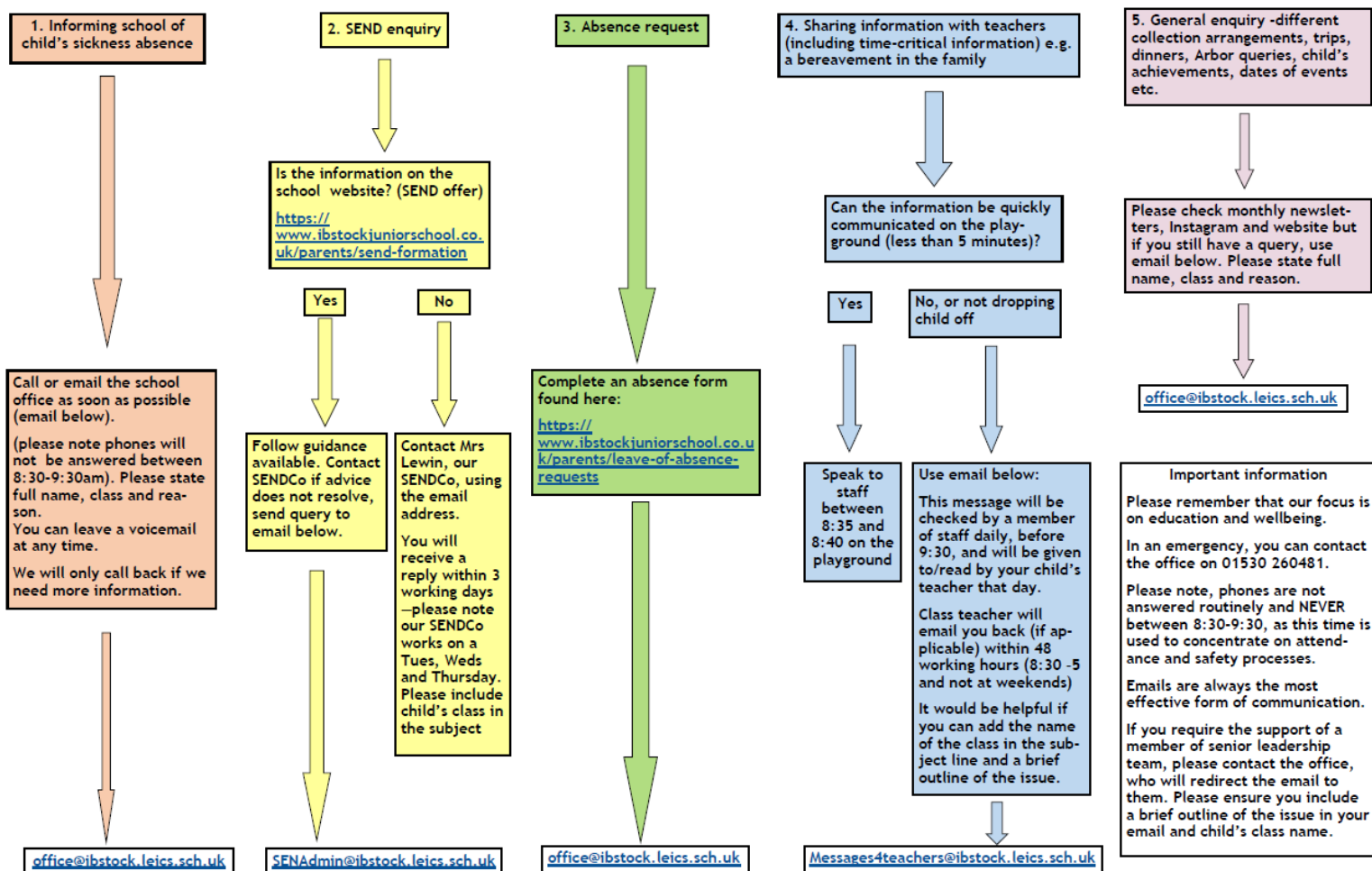
We have updated our timing for returning to school after sickness - your child can now return to school after 24 hrs - not 48 hrs (if they are well enough!)

Please always send children in with an outdoor coat!



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Family Communication Flow Chart



everyone
ACTIVE

North West
Leicestershire
District Council

WHATS INCLUDED IN THE CAS SCHEME?

Students receive free unlimited usage of the following at Coalville & Ashby Leisure Centres:

- Indoor Pools & Outdoor Pool (Re-Introduced)
- Pool Inflatable Sessions
- Court Bookings
- Gym

Children who receive Free School Meals (FSM) also qualify for Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) memberships which includes:

- Gym & Swim Membership
- Climbing & Swim Membership

Discounted sessions include:

- Tayplay Holiday Activities
- Tayplay Skating Sessions
- EA Badminton Club
- EA Junior Volleyball Club

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Children on Free School Meals (FSM)
- Children who receive Pupil Premium (PP).
- Bespoke cases proposed by schools.

Brand New Club Activ8 Cards Will Be Issued

HOW DO WE KNOW WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Information is secured through Leicestershire County Council data, additionally this will be checked by participating schools to ensure children are in receipt of FSM and PP.

CLUB ACTIV8 SCHEME

FURTHER INFORMATION

Schools can also request bespoke/ specific membership to the scheme for students who do not qualify, but the school believes are suitable for membership. These requests will be reviewed and assessed by Everyone Active, with communication of outcome subsequently advised.

HOW DO WE SIGN UP?

Sign up will be via the new Club Activ8 A5 leaflet which will be given to schools to give out to children/ parents who receive FSM/ PP.



† Dates for the Diary – new additions in red

22/09/25	Open Afternoon – 4/5
23/09/25	Open Afternoon – 4/5
24/09/25	Open Afternoons – Yr 3
25/09/25	Open Afternoon – Yr 6
6/10/25 – 08/10/2	Year 6 Residential
02/10/25	Year 3 Falconry in school
14/10/25	Parents' Evening
16/10/25	Parents' Evening
17/10/25	INSET
29/10/25	Halloween Disco
03/11/25	Year 6 Trip to Beaumanor
21/11/25	Dress down day
26/11/25	Chocolate Bingo
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
18/12/25	Christmas Disco
05/01/26	INSET
27/01/26	Young Voices Concert
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)
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
20/05/26	Sports' Morning
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