

Ibstock Junior School

December Newsletter



Welcome to our final newsletter of 2025. December has been an incredibly busy but fun-filled month! We have enjoyed many festivities including school Christmas dinner, amazing singing evenings and energetic school discos. We've also found time to enjoy some success in sporting activates and Year 4 & 5 attended the Richard III Centre in Leicester to enrich their history work. You can read more about this and other activities below.

As the calendar year ends, it often makes us reflect on the last 12 months. At Ibstock Junior School, we couldn't be prouder of all that has been achieved since this time last year. We had a very successful Ofsted visit back in March; our children achieved excellent SATS results; we waved goodbye to our Year 6 children and welcomed in Year 3 pupils; we won the National Read Aloud award for the 3rd year running; have taken our children on numerous trips and visits (including the magnificent Young Voices and two residential trips) and achieved well in many sporting activities; culminating in us recently being declared 'Overall Winners of North West Leicestershire School Sports Partnership Spirit of the Games Award'! This list is just a flavour of all that has gone on. Thank you as always to all of our families who continue to support the school and ensure that we can be so successful. We wish you all a happy and joyful Christmas. We look forward to welcoming your child back to school on **Tuesday 6th January 2026**.



Friends of Ibstock Junior School (FIJS) Update. Thank you to all of the parents that donated to or attended our Chocolate Bingo Night. It was a super night and lots of brilliant prizes were won! We managed to raise over £595 which is just incredible. FIJS also sponsors the annual Christmas Tree Decoration in school. We were amazed at the quality of the children's entries and would like to thank everyone who entered. They looked wonderful on the tree in the hall. Winners were presented with a £10 Amazon voucher and runners up received £5. Congratulations go to our winners! Photos of the entries can be found on the last page of this newsletter. We would also like to say a big thank you to Ibstock Co-op for their generosity in always remembering us at Christmas time. This year they have donated selection boxes to ensure our children are send home with a treat. Special thanks go to Julie Marlow from the Co-op who personally donated a beautiful Christmas tree to us this year. We enjoyed the Elf delivery as pictured! Thanks also go to Sunnyside Garden Centre for providing us with a tree at a discounted price. The children's decorations looked fantastic on our trees!

Christmas evening

It was so lovely to welcome so many parents into school to share in some Christmas songs and readings. We're sure you were as impressed as we were with the standard of the singing and the confidence shown by all of our children. Year 6 moved us with their wonderful re-telling of 'Where Peace Was Found', then lifted our spirits with their beautiful singing. Years 4 and 5 showcased their phenomenal dancing, Makaton and bell-ringing, and left us breathless trying to keep up with their high-energy version of 'Ding Dong'! Year 3's singing was absolutely sensational and the choral rendition of 'The Night Before Christmas' was performed with superb confidence. What an amazing first Christmas with us they had. We are so proud of our multi-talented children and know that you are too. They definitely left us all feeling thoroughly festive!





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What a busy time we had this month in Y4 and 5! We kicked off our new block with an incredible visit to the King Richard III visitor centre in Leicester, where we learned a huge amount about the life and death of this king and got to see the actual place where his bones lay undiscovered for hundreds of years, as well as find out about the fascinating story behind how his remains were found. Not only that, but we got our hands on some real armour made in the style of that time and learned just how tricky being a knight was. As ever, the children demonstrated our ACE values superbly and received many compliments on their behaviour and curiosity. Great work everyone!



Our children's creativity has been evident in abundance during the last few weeks. Earlier this month the Design and Technology ambassadors had the exciting opportunity to go over to support St Denys Infant School with their Enterprise Week. They supported their children with creating some incredible Christmas crafts. Our ambassadors greatly enjoyed the opportunity and loved supporting other children with their learning. They achieved wonderful things during these sessions by collaborating with children of different ages, and greatly enjoyed the experience.

We also ran a Christmas Card Design Competition in school and one of our pupils had the honour of hers being picked as our local MP, Amanda Hack's Christmas card. Amanda came into school to meet Imogen and the runner-up, Florence. Well done girls and thank you to Miss Starkey, for organising the competition.



We have also been involved in lots of activities within our local community over the last month. We met up with Amanda Hack once more when our school was invited to Ellistown Primary school to interview her. Children asked some excellent questions, could it be that some of them are destined for a future in politics or political journalism?! Our Parliament members were busy again when they took hordes of new toys to the Co-op for the Toy Charity Appeal; we were astounded at the generosity of our families at providing toys for children who may have gone without. Thank you. Finally, our Vice Parliament and Reading Ambassadors were busy this week, spreading some Christmas joy, as they delivered a copy of the Christmas card (shown overleaf) to local businesses and organisations around Ibstock to say thank you for all of their support this year. The card was designed by Zara in Year 5.



Sport Updates Congratulations to our super Year 6 dodgeball team, who came second in a recent tournament. The children narrowly missed out on winning the event.



Our Kirby Shield football team beat Huglescote Primary School 2-1 at home, last week. The children played brilliantly, and scored with the last kick of the game! Mr Carte and the team would like to say a big thank you to Leo's dad, who kindly stepped in to referee at the very last minute.



Cross Country: It was cold. It was muddy. It was hard. However, our ACE children still turned up last Saturday morning to race, to cheer and show amazing teamwork and community spirit. Thank you to all the parents and carers for their support, to Moira Primary School for hosting and to the children for their efforts. We got some fantastic results! Proud is an understatement.



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Do you follow IJS on Instagram? If not, you are missing out on regular updates and information. Below is a snapshot of some posts over the last few days and weeks. You can also watch a recording of our brand new podcast on there! You can follow us now (if you don't have an account, you can make one and not post anything if preferred, but just follow us) search for [@ibstockjuniorschool](https://www.instagram.com/ibstockjuniorschool)



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

messages4teachers@ibstock.leics.sch.uk

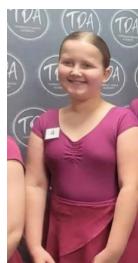


Finnley got to meet his Scooter idol! Pictured are Finnley and Spanner!



Lennie-Eric Webb won player of the match this week at his football club. He had to play in three different positions so showed his skill and flexibility.

Maia completed the Ashby Santa Fun Run! Maia and her Daddy completed it in just over 18mins!



Tillie took part in her first ballet exam despite only having been dancing for 11 months!

Ibstock Town Cricket Club
presents
Womens & Girls - Winter Training





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Christmas Tree Decoration Competition December 2025



Year 3 Winner
Henry

Year 4 Winner
Arthur B

Year 5 Winner
Zara

Year 6 Winner
Scarlett



Year 3 Runner-up
Aaliyah

Year 4 Runners-up
Hazel & Ivan

Year 5 Runner-up
Ida

Year 6 Runner-up
Elliot

If anyone is considering booking a holiday, please consider contacting Steven James, a local travel agent who has very kindly agreed to pay any commission with holidays booked through him to Friends of Ibstock Junior School at no extra cost to our staff or parents. As you know, school finances are particularly difficult across the country, so this is a very welcome offer. Thank you Steve.

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Thank you for being such a valuable part of our community. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and hope you have an ACE 2026!

Love from all the pupils and staff at Ibstock Junior School

