

Tuesday 18th December 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Newsletter #14



Ivy Life

In January, we look forward to welcoming Mrs Helen Lammin to our Ivy Lane team as the permanent Head of School. She has already been into school to meet the children and staff this term on several occasions to say hello. In the New Year I will be returning to Year 1 in Donaldson Class alongside Mrs Stenning. Thank you for the wonderful welcome back to Ivy Lane I have received and your continued support during my time as Interim Head of School.



We say a fond farewell to Miss Gibbens (Y2 Milligan teacher) this week, who has made a great contribution to the development of Ivy Lane over the last 2 years, and will be missed by the children and staff alike. The sound of her beautiful singing voice and her sheer enthusiasm and passion for teaching will be missed at Ivy Lane. Like all of you I am sure, we wish her the very best for her future career and know she will be a real success at Priestly School.

We also say a sad goodbye to Mrs Geeves, who has been working as an incredibly talented teaching assistant for the last ten years at Ivy Lane. Jill has been working as an integral part of the Year 3 team this year and I know she will be dearly missed by everyone at Ivy Lane, not least for her incredible baking talent but also her talent as wardrobe mistress for our productions. We wish her every success in her new career.

Finally, this is the last newsletter for 2018 and I would like to thank you for your support since September and we wish all of you who celebrate this festive season a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and a restful break with family and friends.

Supervising Children in the playground

Can we please remind parents that ALL children should be supervised by their parents/carers whilst they are on the school grounds during drop off in the morning and pick up from school in the afternoon. Please note that the gates are locked at approximately 3.10pm and we would kindly ask that parents/carers/childminders are prompt in leaving the school premises at the end of the day. Can we also remind you that only adults should be pressing the exit button in the playground to release the gate at the top of the staff car park. – children SHOULD NOT be pressing this button. Many thanks for your co-operation with this.

School Performance 2018

Last Thursday, the Department for Education published the 2018 School Performance Tables. Ivy Lane's results for the end of Key Stage 2 are above the national average and reflect the high quality teaching and learning in school. 79% of our pupils moved onto secondary school having reached the expected standard or above in Reading, Writing & Maths combined (the Wiltshire average was 63%). We also topped the table out of the 10 Chippenham primary schools. It just goes to show what motivated and committed pupils, staff and parents working together can achieve. [To view the results in more detail right click to open this link.](#)

We are proud of the performance of all the schools within the Pickwick Academy Trust.

[To view the comparison results across the 4 schools right click here to open the link.](#)

Christmas Festivities at Ivy Lane

It's Christmas time!



Let the festivities begin!

The **Ivy Lane Christmas Choir** will be reforming once again this week before school to bring festive cheer. They'll be under the canopy by the scooter park from **8.25am until 8.45am from Wednesday** – please feel free to join in with their unique cover versions of festive classics (CD's won't be available).

Wednesday is Christmas Dinner Day, the children are served at their tables and sit with their teachers and teaching assistants, as well as having Christmas music and crackers.

Thursday is non-uniform for Reception and Key Stage 1 as they have their parties and a special visitor bearing gifts in the morning. Key Stage 2 have their Cinema Experience with treats also in the morning.

On **Friday** all children will be experiencing the annual Christmas Assembly (with special guests) before saying a very fond festive farewell to Miss Gibbens and Mrs Geeves.

FOILS Christmas Fayre

The FOILS team would like to let you all know that the proceeds from the Christmas Fayre totalled £2,300. Thank you once again to everyone who supported the fayre this year.



Christmas Jumper Day



We are thrilled to let you know that we have raised an amazing £424 for Save The Children following our Christmas Jumper Day last week. Thank you for all the donations.

Lost Property

We have an assortment of watches, glasses and jewellery that has been handed into the school office over the last couple of months. Please pop in if you are missing anything!

We have accumulated a huge amount of other lost property items such as jumpers, cardigans, coats, PE kits, lunch boxes etc. These items will be laid out in the school hall at the end of the day on Wednesday 19th December. Any items unclaimed after this date will be donated to charity or thrown.

Choir performance



The school choir performed brilliantly at the Community Carol Event at Sheldon Road Methodist Church on Sunday afternoon. The church was packed and everyone commented on how fabulously they sang. Michelle Donelan, MP, was there and commented on how well the children remembered all the words of the songs. Thank you to all the parents for taking them and joining in with the carols.

Y5 Taster at Hardenhuish

A letter has been emailed this week informing Y5 parents about a taster day being held at Hardenhuish on **Thursday 10th January 2019**. Children from both Pullman and Byars classes will attend this taster day.

School Lunch Menu Terms 3 and 4

Please find attached the school dinner menu for Terms 3 and 4.

Birthday Books

This week Sophie C has donated 'To Wee Or Not To Wee' to the school library. We would like to thank her and all the children and staff who have donated books over the last year. All the donations help keep our library extra special with an amazing choice for books for everyone to enjoy.

Star Awards

The following children have impressed the staff recently:

Rosie A & Sam H (Rosen) Niamh O & Billy O (Carle) Charlotte P (Donaldson) Lily A (Milligan)	Lyla M (Dahl) Rowan S (Walliams) Teo N (Griffiths) Scarlett B (Morpurgo) Olivia T (Hughes)	Jake B (Byars) Joseph O (Pullman) Chloe G (Rowling) Ben C (Lewis)
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Celebrating Achievement

Well done to Connie B for getting her 5m swimming badge, Cora D and Megan R for raising £38.86 for Doorway by selling cakes at the Chippenham half marathon and to Declan and Hollie J for their Kickboxing awards and trophies.

Dates for the Diary

Wednesday	19th December	Christmas Lunch
Thursday	20th December	Reception & KS1 Christmas Parties – am
Thursday	20th December	KS2 Christmas Cinema experience – am
Friday	21st December	End of Term 2
Monday	7th January 2019	TD Day – SCHOOL CLOSED
Tuesday	8th January	Start of Term 3
Thursday	10th January	Y5 Taster Day at Hardenhuish School
Monday	14th January	After School Club starts (details to follow)
Tuesday	15th January	YR Handwriting session for parents – am
Wednesday	6th February	Open Classrooms
Thursday	7th February	Milligan Class Assembly and FOILS Cake Sale
Thursday	14th February	Pullman Class Assembly and FOILS Cake Sale
Friday	15th February	Last day of Term 3
Monday	25th February	TD Day – SCHOOL CLOSED
Tuesday	26th February	Start of Term 4
Tuesday	26th March	Parents Evening
Thursday	28th March	Parents Evening



Yours sincerely

Mrs Debbie Burchett
Interim Head of School