



**IVY LANE SCHOOL**  
**School Newsletter #6**  
**FRIDAY 8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2023**



Dear Parents/Carers of Ivy Lane,

We are at the end of a whirlwind of a week!

Once again, we have to say a huge well done to all the children in Reception and Key Stage 1 who performed their Nativity plays and Christmas concerts so brilliantly to packed audiences throughout the week. Our children made us so proud and we know that many hearts were melted as they sang, danced, spoke or simply smiled and waved. We will quite miss the sight of angels, shepherds and the like skipping across the playground on their way to the stage!

In Key Stage 2, life has been equally busy! Bikeability has been going on for Year 6 (in some pretty chilly and dank conditions at times). The NSPCC have been in to present to both Year 5 and 6 on the important subject of 'Speak out, Stay safe' and Year 4 have been to St Andrews Church and also enjoyed a fantastic, muddy welly walk with other town primary schools on the fields surrounding Hardenhuish and Sheldon schools.

Our choir have represented our school and performed wonderfully on two occasions in the last week. They were a star attraction at the Christmas Fayre and then performed again at the Neeld Hall as part of an Over 60's Christmas event. They have received rave reviews from both appearances!

Thank you for supporting FOILS Christmas Fayre so enthusiastically last weekend – either with your donations, raffle ticket purchases or visiting on the day. Read on to see the full report from FOILS and to see the fantastic amount of money that was raised.

Next week we are in for lots of full on festive fun with Christmas dinners and Christmas parties for all. Please read the emails carefully to keep up with what is happening and when in different key stages and the relevant dress code for the day! Please do remember, that on party clothes days, children do still need to be dressed safely and warmly enough for outside activity.

Best wishes,

**Mrs H Lammin**  
Head of School

**PLEASE SEE THE END OF THE NEWSLETTER FOR USEFUL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**TD Days 23/24**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September, Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December, Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February,  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March, and Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June**

**LAST DAY OF SCHOOL YEAR 2024**

We would like to give you prior warning of the school closing at 1.30pm on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

This will mean that there will be no Ivy Kidz provision on that day.

A gentle reminder that pick-up times for Ivy Kidz is **5.30pm**. Please ensure your child is collected promptly.

Please use the out of hours number to call Ivy Kidz after 3pm for any emergencies or late arrivals. The number is: **01225 460822**. Many thanks.



### CHRISTMAS DINNERS

The deadline has now closed for ordering a Christmas dinner. Please ensure a packed lunch is brought into school if a dinner has not been booked. We are unable to add any more dinners on last minute. Thank you for your co-operation



### teachers2parents

Please be reminded that if you have the **Teachers2Parents** APP downloaded, all emails and text messages sent from the school will be delivered to the APP. We suggest you have the APP on your home screen, set the notifications to on and check it regularly as we send multiple messages a day.

### COATS

With the cold weather now upon us, please ensure your children wear warm, waterproof coats to be outside during break and lunch times. Thank you.



### CHILDRENS ATTENDANCE

Dear Parents and Carers,

The below is an excerpt from the Children's Commissioner's Attendance Audit.

Improving school attendance is an absolute priority for the Children's Commissioner. Children are offered the best start to further their ambitions, relationships and learning when they are in school.

However, despite the importance of being in school, following the pandemic school absence rates have become stuck at crisis levels. Last year, over 1 in 5 children were persistently absent, meaning they missed on average at least a day a fortnight in school.

In the Attendance Audit, the Children's Commissioner talked to hundreds of children who are regularly absent from school. Children aren't absent from school because they don't want to learn. They are desperate to learn yet everyday thousands of children find themselves without the support that they need to engage in education.

Attendance needs to be everybody's business – all agencies involved in supporting children must make tackling school absences their priority.

At Ivy Lane our children's attendance is monitored daily and each month those children who's attendance is below 96% is recorded. We only want to support our families especially if they are going through harder times. We are also very aware that at this time of year there have been numerous bugs and viruses going around as well.

If you are concerned about your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact our Pastoral Manager - Mrs Adams.

It is a statutory requirement for schools, that If your child's attendance has fallen below expected levels you should receive a letter and be invited into the school to see if there is anything we can do to help. If you would like further information the following websites are useful:

[Briefing on school attendance in England | Children's Commissioner for England \(childrenscommissioner.gov.uk\)](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/briefing-on-school-attendance-in-england/)

[School attendance and absence: Overview - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-and-absence/overview)

This week some of our Year 6 children took part in a Bikeability course which consisted of a 2-day course to complete Level 1 and 2 Bikeability. They have been given their certificates in our Celebration Assembly today. They endured some cold and wet weather and the Instructors were all very complimentary about their behaviour so well done to all that took part.



We are delighted to share that the Christmas Fayre and Raffle raised a combined total of £2813.95 which will all go towards wonderful experiences for the children and extra resources for the school.

Events like these involve a lot of hard work behind the scenes so we would like to say a big thank you to all of the amazing parents and carers who volunteered. From wrapping gifts to running stalls, they all played a part in making the fayre a great success. We are also grateful to the kind staff who helped on the day, especially Mrs Spyer who resumed her role as Chief Elf to entertain the children enjoying Storytime with Santa.

Thanks for all the generous donations which ensured the tombolas were well stocked with chocolates, bottles and teddies and that we had plenty of books, games and Christmas jumpers to sell too.

All of the raffle prize winners have now been contacted to collect their prizes from the school office.

Next week, Year 2 are off to the pantomime in Swindon! The annual trip to the Wyvern Theatre is funded by FOILS with all tickets and transport covered.





## FOILS DONATION

A big thank you to FOILS for funding some lovely sensory items that have started to arrive in school. Here we have our newest pet of Ivy Lane, a lovely weighted blanket and weighted bunny.



## CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Thank you to all of those who donated £1 for Christmas Jumper Day to support Save the children. We had a fantastic array of festive outfits.

## CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE COLLECTION

Thank you to our very generous families who contributed to the NSPCC collection following our Christmas nativities and performances. We hope you all enjoyed watching your children perform and left feeling very Christmassy.

## FREE MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

Supporting the wellbeing of children has never been so important. To assist you in doing this, SSS Learning Ltd have produced two fantastic free parental resources:

[Child Mental Health & Wellbeing - 10 Top Tips for Parents](#)  
[Parents' Mental Health & Wellbeing - 10 Top Tips for Parents](#)

I am sure parents/carers will find these free resources both informative and supportive.

## WILTSHIRE SUPPORT SERVICES

Wiltshire Autism Assessment Service

If your child is known to WASS and you would like some support with the service, please visit the website to find a range of useful links, resources, and information.

<https://wiltshirechildrensservices.co.uk/waas/>

Wiltshire Parent Carers Council

The Wiltshire Parent Carer Council (WPCC) can provide advice about local sources of support and information for families of children with special educational needs.

[https://www.wiltshireparentcarercouncil.co.uk/en/Contact\\_us](https://www.wiltshireparentcarercouncil.co.uk/en/Contact_us)



## STAR OF THE WEEK

Well done to these children who have impressed their class teachers over the last two weeks.

Well done to you all

Cillian B, Pip G (Donaldson)  
Wenny P, Issy N (Hargreaves)  
Ivy C, Chloe T-B (Dahl)  
Oliver Mc C, Noah M (Milligan)  
Ryan S (Griffiths)  
Finley R, Theo L (Walliams)  
Casper T, Gabriella T (Hughes)  
Poppy K, Sophie M (Morpurgo)  
Eden S, Bailey M (Pullman)  
Tom G, Poppy S (Byars)  
Melody C, Dylan H (Lewis)  
Iris L, Max N (Rowling)

## BIRTHDAY BOOKS

Thank you to those who have donated books to their classes reading corner in celebration of their birthday:



Daphne S-L (Carle)  
Ayden H-C (Milligan)  
Imogen E (Dahl)  
Lewis C (Morpurgo)  
Cameron M (Hughes)

Please ask even if your child is of Infant school age.

# Free School meals

## Do you receive any of the following?

- Income support
- Employment Support Allowance (Income Related)
- Income based Job Seekers Allowance
- Guaranteed Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit and your income (as calculated by the Inland Revenue) is less than £16,190
- Universal Credit
- Receiving support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act of 1999
- In the Armed Forces

If you can answer yes to any of the above you may qualify for free school meals/Pupil Premium

The school office will help with your application. If your application is successful not only will your child receive free school meals, but our school will receive £1,300 additional funding (per child). This is called Pupil Premium.

All applications are confidential.

Want to apply?

Not sure?

Ask at the office

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Date	Event
08/12/23	Christmas Jumper Day
11/12/23	Y6 Child Measurement programme
11/12/23 PM	Y5 Sheldon Visit to watch their Christmas production
12/12/23	Y2 Panto trip to the Wyvern Theatre – Snow White
12/12/23	KS2 Christmas Dinner. Nursery, Reception & Y1 Party Packed Lunch
14/12/23	Nursery, Reception & KS1 Christmas Dinner. KS2 Party Packed Lunch
15/12/23	Y2 Party Packed Lunch & Y4 Christmas Party Afternoon
19/12/23	Last day of Term
04/01/24	First day back of 2024
24/01/24	Y5 to Young Voices in Birmingham
09/02/24	TD Day
19/03/24	Parents Evening 3.20-5.30pm
21/03/24	Parents Evening 3.30-7pm
26/03/24	FOILS Spring disco Year Reception-2 4.15-5.15pm Year 3-6 5.30-6.30pm
28/03/24	TD Day
24/06/24	TD day
01- 03/07/24	Y6 Residential to Hooke Court
06/07/24	FOILS Summer Fayre 12-3pm
10/07/24	Open Classrooms 3-5pm
11/07/24	FOILS Summer Disco Year Reception-2 4.15-5.15pm Year 3-5 5.30-6.30pm
18/07/24	Y6 Ivy Fest 5-6.30pm
24/07/24	Y6 Leavers Assembly 9.30am
24/07/24	End of Term 1.30pm finish – there will be no Ivy Kidz available

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### Wiltshire's Wellbeing Hub

The Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub is available to anyone who is struggling during this difficult time – and will now be available on Saturdays.

The hub can help and provide support to those who perhaps don't have a network around them, and also signpost them to where additional help is available in their local area.

Hundreds of community groups, run by volunteers, are still set up across the county, providing invaluable assistance to those who need it.

## The Wiltshire **WELLBEING HUB**

For vulnerable people in need of support

0300 003 4576

☒
wellbeinghub@wiltshire.gov.uk

#WiltshireTogether

Part of Pickwick Academy Trust Vision: “to work together to provide the best schools and outcomes for our children” Registered office: Pound Pill, Corsham, Wiltshire, SN13 9YW, Companies House No: 07557894

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