

IVY LANE SCHOOL
School Newsletter #8
FRIDAY 19th JANUARY 2024



Dear Parents/Carers of Ivy Lane,

The first newsletter of 2024 comes to you at the end of a very cold week! Thank you for ensuring your children are well wrapped up so that they can continue to enjoy outdoor activities and playtimes in this crisp and bright January weather.

Term 3 is now well underway and it is wonderful to see our children happily settled back into their school routines and making the most of all their learning opportunities.

Several year groups have already been out and about, either to local sports events or as part of their wider curriculum learning. Year 2 really enjoyed their town walk this week where they found out more about landmarks that are right on their doorstep and even discovered where Brunel stayed when he came to visit Chippenham. Year 3 are enjoying their swimming lessons and are showing excellent Ivy Lane behaviour on their walk to the pool and whilst using the facilities. Our thanks to you if you are a parent helping to keep children safe on these trips out.

Excitement is building in Year 5 as they make final preparations for their Young Voices experience at the Birmingham arena next week. Full details will follow in the next newsletter. We know they will have a wonderful time!

There is important information around attendance in this newsletter – please do take a moment to read this article. Also, an update from FOILS will explain how funds have been spent and how you can get involved as a volunteer to support this amazing group of people who really do enhance every child's Ivy Lane journey.

Have a warm and cosy weekend everyone!

Best wishes,

Mrs H Lammin
Head Teacher

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

TD Days 23/24

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

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL YEAR 2024

We would like to give you prior warning of the school closing at 1.30pm on Wednesday 24th 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.

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

Please refer to our website for a full list of uniform expectations. We do not accept any jewellery, except small stud earrings. Hair accessories should be kept to minimum, with small hair bobbles, and plain hairbands.

Thank you for your support.

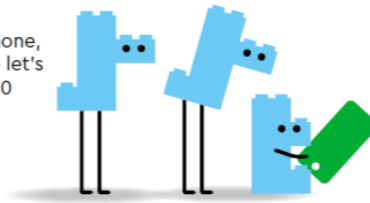
KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE

With more and more of our children having access to mobile phones and tablets we thought we would share some useful links. Please have conversations with your children around keeping safe and being kind online.

[Teaching Your Child about Internet & Online Safety | NSPCC](#)
[4-11 year olds | Childnet](#)

TOP 10 ONLINE SAFETY TIPS

Kids love to be online – on the tablet, on the phone, on your laptop (when you're trying to work!) So let's make the experience as safe as it is fun. Here's 10 simple tips from our partners at UNICEF to help parents keep kids safe in the digital world.



1 Talk about online safety

Have an open chat about what they're doing online. Be positive and show you're here to listen. Talk about which safe, age-appropriate platforms, websites and social media they can use. Check if they're worried about anything and ask about their online friends. Find fun ways to start talking.

2 Agree boundaries up front

Discuss and agree on how much time they spend online, playing games and chatting, and how long they need for school or homework. Maybe no devices at dinner for parents or children, or no devices after a certain time, is a good idea.

3 Encourage positive social values

Respect, empathy, communication and a little 'give and take' can all help to keep children safe online. You don't need tech skills to discuss these things. Just talk about how the way they behave online could affect other people, and how others' behavior could affect them.

4 Use online safety tools

Most browsers and search engines have a Safe Search option under 'Settings'. And you can use parental controls on devices, especially for younger children. Keep your child's data and privacy safe in settings and on social media.

5 Know where to seek help

If your child is distressed from being online, or you find unwanted sexual content, or feel they may be at sexual risk, most social media and apps have built-in reporting tools. Visit the FAQ or Help section for details, or use a national hotline or the Internet Watch Foundation.

6 Find someone you both trust

Accept that your child may not be comfortable speaking to you, as a parent, about some of the things they encounter online. If this is the case, identify someone you both trust, who they can talk to if they ever feel the need.

7 Understand the privacy risks

Check the privacy policies of the video and communication tools they're using. Or get key information by searching the app's privacy risks. Set privacy settings to 'high' and switch off 'location' in new apps. And remember to update their devices to the latest software and anti-virus programs.

8 Cover the camera

When they step away from the camera, the video may still be recording. So use a piece of tape or sticky note to cover the camera, to remind everyone in the family when the camera is on. Always ensure the video is turned off at the end of a session.

9 Respect your children's privacy

Sharing family images and stories on social media is a way of staying connected, finding humor and seeking comfort. But be careful you don't share photos that may compromise your child or affect their privacy and protection.

10 Play together, online

This is a great opportunity to engage with your child about their world and find out what's important in their lives. Better still, online activities can often inspire offline games, challenges and exercise routines you can do together, to bond and stay close to one another.



teachers2parents

A gentle reminder that if you have the teachers2parents app downloaded onto your mobile devices, school text messages sent out will be delivered to the app, rather than where you would find your usual text messages.

Please ensure that you check your teachers2parent app on a regular basis so that you are kept up to date with any message sent.



SCHOOL DINNER COLOURED BANDS

If you find any of our red, yellow or green dinners bands at home please could these be returned to school.



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 whose 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)



Planning is underway already for our next fundraising events including the Spring Disco, a Cake Sale and the Summer Fayre.

Thanks to your generous support FOILS is providing more exciting experiences in 2024. In March, the whole of Y4 are off to London to see The Lion King on the annual theatre trip.

We have granted £1000 in funding to pay for a range of educational resources to enhance learning activities and to increase ICT equipment. We will also be paying for a leavers hoody for every child in Y6.

FOILS needs your help to continue...

We are looking for a new Chair and Secretary to start in September. Kim and Jill are stepping down from these roles at the end of the summer term. The new recruits will join our Treasurer Sophie and our team of volunteers. As a registered charity FOILS must have the 3 Trustee posts filled to continue operating.

We are now asking any parents or carers who are interested in these voluntary positions to get in contact to find out more. Just email FOILS@ivylane.wilts.sch.uk and we can answer any questions or arrange to have a chat. You don't need any specific skills to apply.

This is your chance to make a difference to the children at Ivy Lane by bringing energy, enthusiasm and fresh ideas. We look forward to hearing from you!

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

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



Joel B, Matilda H (Carle)
Eva M, Remy B, Orla E (Rosen)
Carter M-S, Luna C-S (Donaldson)
Isla M, Archie W (Hargreaves)
Porter M, Erik L (Dahl)
Abigail S, Noah W (Milligan)
Conor B, Megan C (Griffiths)
Louie K, Sophia P (Walliams)
Anna M, Lilah R-W (Hughes)
Kasper H, Sylvie C (Morpurgo)
Thomas G, Alex G (Pullman)
Inara M, Connie B (Byars)
Charley P, Jay Rosado (Lewis)
Opal G, Otis De B (Rowling)

BIRTHDAY BOOKS

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



Lucas F-B (Hargreaves)
Louis De B (Milligan)
Penelope C (Walliams)
Iris O'B (Morpurgo)
Carys J & Sophina B (Byars)
Mrs Monaghan (Morpurgo)



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.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Date	Event
24/01/24	Y5 to Young Voices in Birmingham
25/01/24	Y2 SS Great Britain trip
01/02/24	Y3 Chippenham Museum trip
06/02/24	Dance Festival
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

Wiltshire Council

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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