

Dear Parents and Carers,

There has been great excitement this week as the children have discovered new play facilities on the field and enjoyed sunny lunch times making the most of the latest additions to our OPAL initiative. This is all thanks to our 'Big Build' project in conjunction with B & Q which, after months of planning and liaison on the part of Mr Johns, our leader for play, and support from our FOILS team, finally took place last week. So much was achieved by the team who came to site, which included some parent volunteers (thank you!). We now have sufficient welly storage for all year groups, an industrial size mud kitchen complete with mud café, a slackline (for years 4, 5 and 6), a dedicated tyre storage area, a dedicated loose parts storage area for (building and construction) and a boat that is at last ready to be part of our children's imaginative play. It is all very impressive and the happy faces at lunch time show that the efforts of our 'Big Build' team are hugely appreciated. Thank you!

Next week we embrace the change of season with 'Bonkers about Conkers' tournaments and our Harvest Festival celebrations. Remember to bring (pre-strung) conkers into school and, if you have conkers to spare, add them to the collection bucket on the playground for others to take home, string and join in with some traditional fun. Thank you to Mrs Smith for facilitating this event.

Donations to our Harvest Festival collection have been welcomed today and will be welcomed again on Monday. Tinned and dried goods are requested please. All donations will go to Doorway, a local charity with a drop-in centre for those who are homeless or vulnerably housed in north Wiltshire.

Having recently welcomed so many new faces to Ivy Lane, today we say a fond farewell to one of our team. Mrs Jones, our admin assistant, will have greeted many of you visiting the office or phoning the school with a message and I am sure you will agree that her warm welcome and reassurance has always been appreciated. Mrs Jones is leaving us today and returning to her teaching roots. She will be much missed by our Ivy Lane community but we wish her every success and happiness in her exciting new role. Thank you, Mrs Jones!

Wishing you all a happy weekend,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mrs Fahey".

Mrs Fahey
Deputy Headteacher



***New dates in green**

Date	Event
28/09/26	Harvest Festival Donations (see poster below)
28/09/26	Y3 Outdoor Learning (details to follow)
29 & 30/09/26	Harvest Festival Assemblies
30/09/26	Reception Phonics Workshop for Parents 8.45 to 9.30am (Details to follow)
01/10/26	Bonkers for Conkers Tournament (see details below)
05/10/26	Choir starts
09/10/26	Hello Yellow Day (details to follow)
09/10/26	Hockey Club Quik Sticks Tournament at Sheldon (details to follow)
12/10/26	Y6 First Aid Training in school
13/10/26	Reception Visit to Chippenham Library
15/10/26	FOILS Autumn Discos Y1-Y3: 4.15-5.15pm, Y4-6: 5.30-6.30pm
16/10/26	Y5 Outdoor Learning (details to follow)
20/10/26	Open Classrooms 3-5pm
20/10/26	Y6 Height and Weight measurement program
20/10/26	Nursery photos (details to follow)
22-30/10/26	October Half Term
04/11/26	Student Nasal Flu Vaccinations (details have been emailed)
05-06/11/26	Y6 Bikeability (Group 1) Details to follow
06/11/26	Football Tournament (details to follow)
10/11/26	Y3 and Y5 Planetarium in school (Funded by FOILS)
10/11/26	Parents' Evening (3.30-7pm)
12/11/26	Parents' Evening (3.20-5.30pm)
13/11/26	Reception Outdoor Learning (details to follow)
17/11/26	Sunflowers Parents Evening
12-13/11/26	Y6 Bikeability (Group 2) Details to follow
19-20/11/26	Y6 Bikeability (Group 3) Details to follow
02/12/26	Choir to Voices Festival @ Wiltshire Music Festival
09/12/26	Reception Christmas Nativity 9.30am and 2pm
10/12/26	Year 2 Christmas Production 9.30am and 2pm
15/12/26	EYFS / KS1 Christmas Dinner Day
15/12/26	KS2 Cinema Experience
15/12/26	KS2 Christmas Parties (no school dinner bookings for KS2)
16/12/26	KS2 Christmas Dinner Day
16/12/26	EYFS / KS1 Christmas Parties (no school dinner bookings for EYFS/KS1)
18/12/26	TD Day

Date	Event
14/01/27	Y5 to Young Voices (details to follow)
12/02/27	TD Day
03/03/27	Y4 Lion King theatre trip (details to follow)
04/03/27	World Book Day (details to follow)
28/06/27	TD Day
23/07/27	TD Day

Eco Committee

Welcome to our new Eco Committee for 2026/27. They will be responsible for sustainable actions within their classrooms and will be having regular termly meetings with Mrs Gunner, our Eco Lead. Eco updates will be shared with parents/carers throughout the school year.



Exotic Encounters!

We were lucky enough to win an Exotic Encounter from JJ's Reptiles, thanks to lots of our parents for voting and sharing the competition with their friends and family. Children in Years 1 to 4 met lots of interesting creatures including a millipede, a corn snake and even a python!



"I loved Barry the Snake!" Madeleine L

"This was really good, seeing all the types of reptiles was so cool!" Noah S

"I loved being able to hold the animals, they were very smooth." Dimi R

Sunflower Nursery Places Available for Children Turning 3

Do you have a child turning 3 this year? We'd love to welcome them to our nursery!

Our nursery provides a warm, nurturing environment where children can learn, play, make friends, and develop confidence as they prepare for their next steps into school.

To find out more, parents are invited to book a tour and see our wonderful setting for themselves. Please contact the nursery office to arrange a visit.

If you have friends, family members, or neighbours with children turning 3 this year, please help spread the word and encourage them to get in touch too.

To book a tour, please call the Sunflowers nursery office on 01249 471209 (between 8.30am - 11.30am. We look forward to meeting you!



Sunflowers Nursery Class
Ivy Lane School
Learning for Life

Sunflowers Nursery Class Term-time provision for 3-4 year olds

Admissions now open

Call or email today to enquire about availability

✉ nursery@ivylane.wilts.sch.uk

☎ 01249 471209 (8.30 – 11.30am, Monday – Friday)

Bonkers About Conkers 2026!

28th September – 1st October

We are relaunching our ever-popular event, Bonkers about Conkers, one of Ivy Lane's renowned 50 Experiences.

Children in Years 1-6 are invited to bring in plenty of stringed conkers, ready for battle! Class tournaments will take place on Friday.

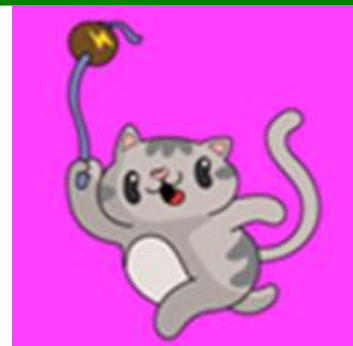
How to prepare your conkers:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5eXevyBZv_A

How to play: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XEAMLWKY9ck>

Any donations of extra conkers will be gratefully received in the labelled box near the YR drop off/collection point.

If you are in need of more conkers, please help yourself from this box.





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

Carle: Magnus H, Lara S

Rosen: Gwynora E, Max B

Donaldson: Elianna T, Oscar S

Hargreaves: Ace B, Lilly W

Dahl: Alva D, Amelia C

Kerr: Charlie H, Alfie G

Cowell: Vaishnav T, Hanna C

Griffiths: Harvey S, Zach H

Morpurgo: Hazel D, Issy N

Zephaniah: Ava M, Pip G

Pullman: Blair A-C, Evie M

Riddell: Karim D, Lily G

Lewis: Evelyn T, Skylar B

Tolkien: Harper H, Penelope C

Well done to the children on the Golden Ivy Leaf over the last two weeks who joined Mrs Lammin for a Headteacher's breakfast!

Frederick C (Sunflowers)

Amelia H (Sunflowers)

Magnus H (Carle)

Bea B (Kerr)



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

Magnus H (Carle)

Oliver N (Carle)

Luca R (Carle)

Leia M (Donaldson)

Ethan Y (Dahl)

Ethan E (Dahl)

Olive Y (Kerr)

Lyla N (Kerr)

George S (Griffiths)

Jenny D (Tolkien)

Tassi B (Tolkien)

Doorway Harvest Wish List

Yes please, we really need...

Tinned tomatoes

Baked beans

Tinned soup

Tinned vegetables (including potatoes)

Tinned meat (e.g. corned beef, meat stew)

Tinned fish (mackerel, sardines, tuna etc)

Packet soup, mash & savoury noodles

Jars of Cooking Sauce

Bags of rice

Coffee & Tea

Tinned fruit, puddings & custard

Packets of biscuits, bars & cereal bars

Long life fruit / jelly / pasta pots

Individual cartons of fruit juice

Pot Noodles



No thanks, we have enough

or can't use...



Tinned pulses

Cereals & porridge

Bags of pasta

Jam, chutney & fresh produce

Catering-sized items

Anything containing alcohol

Anything that is past its best before date



Thank you
for your
support!

Doorway

AUTUMN SILENT DISCO

 Thursday 15th October



Y1-Y3 4.15-5.15pm

Y4-Y6 5.30-6.30pm

 Ivy Hall

 Tickets are £5
and need to be prebooked

Tickets
include a



SWEET BAG!



Book here at
www.ticketsource.com/foils



Later disco (Y4-Y6) includes

a TUCK SHOP!

£1
per item



From the
office...

Contacting the School

01249 652556

Email

assistantadmin@ivylane.wilts.sch.uk

- Pick up arrangements.
- School absences
- Medical appointments
- School dinner bookings
- Wraparound care
- Club bookings
- Parking permits
- Dietary / Medical needs

Email Mrs Nowosielski

admin@ivylane.wilts.sch.uk

For all other enquiries, including admissions, and your first point of contact for any member of staff at Ivy Lane.

Changes to contact details

Please remember to let the school office know if there are any changes to your contact details, addresses, email addresses etc.



Dietary / Medical Needs

Please keep the office updated with any dietary or medical needs your child has. Please let us know if this changed throughout the year.



Medicines

If your child needs to have any medication in school please bring it to the school office and complete a medication form.



Lost Property

Please remember to **name** your child's uniform and school equipment. Particularly their jumpers, cardigans, PE jumpers and water bottles.

You can look for lost items at the end of the school day. Lost property is located inside the Y4/5 entrance near the tunnel gate.

Reporting



Absences

If your child is ill, please leave a message on our dedicated absence line, 01249 652556 (Option 1). It really helps us if you leave a voicemail rather than email in.

Please let us know your child's symptoms rather than saying they are 'ill' or 'sick' as we require this information for our attendance records.

For absence requests in advance, (eg. appointments / holidays/ external exams) please complete an absence request form, available from the office or download from the website and email in to assistantadmin@ivylane.wilts.sch.uk



Please remember to let Ivy Kidz know if someone different will be collecting your child. We follow the same procedures as the school and cannot let your child go home with someone different unless we have had authorisation from parents.

A gentle reminder that we cannot accept any late bookings for Ivy Kidz or Breakfast Club due to our staff rota organisation.

Please ensure all sessions are booked within the 1 week booking deadline. Reminders are sent out weekly to advise about dates that the Wrap Around bookings on Arbor will be closing.

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 collections.

Phone: 01249 460822

Email: ivykidz@ivylane.wilts.sch.uk

Please do not call this number during the school day.



Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are Changing

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force for Penalty Notices issued from September 2024

Per Parent, Per Child

Penalty Notice Fines will be issued to each parent for each child that was absent.
For Example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

When will a Penalty Notice fine be issued?

Penalty Notices will be considered for 5 Consecutive days of term time leave or 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period (in the same or over different academic years).

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:
£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days. Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

Second Offence (within 3 years)

The second time a penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:
£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Third Offence (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court.

Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent per child. Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate, due to 'failure to safeguard a child's education'.



WILTSHIRE SUPPORT SERVICES

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.

Call the WPCC Helpline

01225 764 647

10.00am - 5.00pm

Monday - Friday

https://www.wiltshireparentcarercouncil.co.uk/en/Contact_us

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:

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

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

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

Wiltshire's Wellbeing Hub

The Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub can help:

- put people in touch with community groups who can help and provide a warm space
- signpost to sources of financial support and foodbanks
- provide advice to those experiencing loneliness
- advise people on cost-of-living crisis
- signpost customers to any appropriate schemes through the Household Support Fund (HSF)

mapac[®]

School Uniform can be ordered here:

<https://www.mapac.com/education/parents/uniform/ivylaneSN1>



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.



The Wiltshire
WELLBEING HUB

For vulnerable people in need of support

0300 003 4576

wellbeinghub@wiltshire.gov.uk

#WiltshireTogether

Wiltshire Council

**Pickwick
Academy Trust**



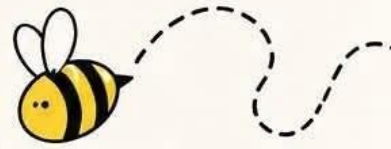
Part of Pickwick Academy Trust Vision: "to work together to provide the best schools and outcomes for our children

"Registered office: Pound Pill, Corsham, Wiltshire, SN13 9YW, Companies House No: 07557894

Web: www.pickwickacademytrust.co.uk Email: admin@pickwickacademytrust.co.uk Twitter: @PickwickTrust



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**FOR CHILDREN IN
SCHOOL YEARS R TO 4**



**TUESDAYS
5-6PM**



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CHIPPENHAM**



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GAMES & HAVE
LOTS OF FUN!**



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SAT 31ST OCT - 3PM UNTIL 5PM
BOOKING ESSENTIAL