



Icknield Infants'

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



October 2026

• BRAVE

✦ CURIOUS

◆ TEAMWORK

• FOCUS

A WORD FROM MRS SQUIRES

This week, it has been wonderful to see so many examples of children showing our school values during lunchtime. Across the playground, children have been playing collaboratively, sharing resources, taking turns and using their imaginations to create and explore together. These are the moments that make us particularly proud, as they show children building friendships and developing the skills that help them thrive both in and out of school.

I also spoke with the children today about how we can make lining up even more successful. Together, we agreed to introduce a weekly lining-up competition, celebrating the classes who show the greatest teamwork, responsibility and readiness to learn. Children are already discussing possible rewards with their teachers, and I look forward to sharing more details with you next week!

This week also saw the launch of our new **Attendance Bears** 🐻 🐻. Each week, one bear will be awarded to the EYFS class (Nursery and Reception) and one to the KS1 class (Years 1 and 2) with the highest attendance. Congratulations to **Fox** and **Butterfly**, our very first winners. We hope you enjoy looking after your bears this week! We are launching a brand-new whole-school competition to name the bears – please do discuss this with your child. All names submitted will be considered and the office team will make a selection to be announced this time next week!

We are delighted to have seen a significant improvement in whole-school attendance so far this year, and I would like to thank all our parents and carers for the support you provide each morning. Getting children to school on time and ready to learn makes such a difference. With only 190 school days in the year, every day really does count, and strong attendance helps children make the most of every opportunity available to them. Just as importantly, we are helping children develop positive habits and routines that will support them throughout their lives. If there is ever a time when your child is finding it difficult to come to school, please do get in touch. We are always here to listen and work with you to find the right support.

Our first Progress Evening of the year is also just around the corner. If you have not yet booked an appointment with your child's teacher, please do so as soon as possible. These meetings are a valuable opportunity to celebrate successes, discuss progress and work together to support your child's next steps.

As always, I will be available throughout the evening and would love the opportunity to speak with you. Whether you would like to share something that is working well, offer feedback, or simply have a chat, please do come and say hello. You will also have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey if you would prefer. We value the partnership we have with our families and know that by working together, we can achieve the very best outcomes for every child.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support, and I wish you all a wonderful weekend.

THIS WEEK AT ICKNIELD



STAFF PROFILE

From next week, watch this space for an introduction to a member of our staff. We will share a small piece giving little-

CELEBRATION CORNER

A reminder to please share any celebrations from outside school so we can congratulate our children in lots of different

known facts and a little background to each member so you can feel closer to all members of the Icknield staffing team. Who will be in the spotlight first?!

ways! You may choose to celebrate sporting achievements, Beavers/Rainbows, music, or more individual family celebrations. We would love them to be shared across the Icknield family!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



We add new events and dates regularly as we book in trips, visitors, etc., so please check back regularly to make sure you have access to all the dates you need. These can also be found on the school website [here](#).

October

Progress Evening – Wednesday 14th October, 3:30-6:00p.m.

Progress Evening – Thursday 15th October, 3:30-6:00p.m.

PTA non-uniform day - Friday 16th October

PTA Hallowe'en Disco for years 1 and 2 – Friday 23rd October, 3:30-5:00p.m.

Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October Half Term, school closed to pupils

SCHOOL STORIES

NO OUTSIDERS



In our No Outsiders assembly this week, we learned about Vitoria Bueno, a talented ballet dancer who was born without arms. Through her inspiring story, we explored how everyone is unique and how differences should never stop us from achieving our dreams. Vitoria shared the powerful message that we are all more than our disabilities and that we should have the confidence to follow our ambitions.

The children discussed what they could learn from Vitoria's determination, resilience and positive attitude. The assembly reminded us that everyone belongs, everyone has talents to celebrate and that treating others with respect and understanding helps make our school a welcoming place for all.

A LITTLE REMINDER FROM OUR KITCHEN TEAM

We've noticed that some children are bringing whole grapes in their packed lunches. Whole grapes can be a choking risk for young children, so please remember to cut grapes before putting them in your child's lunchbox.

Our kitchen team recommends:

Nursery & Reception: grapes cut into quarters

Year 1 & Year 2: grapes cut into halves lengthways

Thank you for helping us keep our children safe at lunchtime. ❤️

For more information about preparing food safely for young children, please see the [NHS guidance on preparing food safely](#).

WELCOME EVENING THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to all the families who joined us for our Welcome Evening on Tuesday. It was wonderful to see so many children and their families exploring the school and taking part in the activities across our classrooms. We hope you enjoyed following the map, collecting stamps and stickers in your Icknield Infants' passports, solving riddles and sharing some of the learning experiences that our children enjoy every day. It was also lovely to welcome families to meet members of our governing body, our SENCo and other members of the school team.

The evening was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate our school community, and we were delighted to see so many smiling faces enjoying the activities, including our popular photo booth!

Thank you for your continued support. Working together with our families is such an important part of school life, and we greatly appreciate your involvement. We look forward to many more opportunities to welcome you into school throughout the year. 😊

COMING UP

- Online booking opens for Progress Evening
- PTA Non-uniform day
- PTA disco

DON'T FORGET

- Please remember that squash is not permitted in school. All children should bring a named bottle of water to drink in class each day. If a bottle contains squash, we will put it away and provide your child with a cup of water instead. Thank you for your support in helping us keep children hydrated throughout the school day.

PTA & COMMUNITY



PTA MESSAGE

🎃 Halloween Disco

There are still some tickets available for our Halloween Disco! 🧛 The deadline for payments is **Friday 16th October**. If you've already paid, you should have received your child's ticket. If there are any ticketing issues, please speak to your class rep and they'll be happy to help.

🎅 Santa's Grotto & Christmas Market

A big thank you to all the parents and carers who came along and booked a Santa's Grotto slot — we're looking forward to a lovely festive event! 🎄 We now have **32 family spaces remaining** for Santa. Tickets will be available again **after school on Wednesday 7th October, 3.25–3.45pm**. If you can't make this session but would like to book a space, please contact your class rep.

If you'd love your child to take part in either of these events but have any concerns about payment, please speak to our **Family Support Worker** in the first instance. We want everyone to have the opportunity to join in. ❤️

As always, if you have any questions, please email PTA@icknieldinfants.herts.sch.uk.

LOOK WHAT WE'VE BEEN LEARNING!

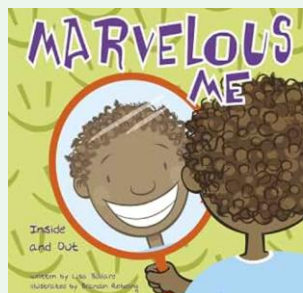


NURSERY

Please see Tapestry for Mrs Maw's weekly update. If children have any interesting play moments, show school values or learning powers, or just want to share something from home with their teacher, please do upload it on Tapestry. Don't worry about lots of text – a simple photo and small caption is perfect!

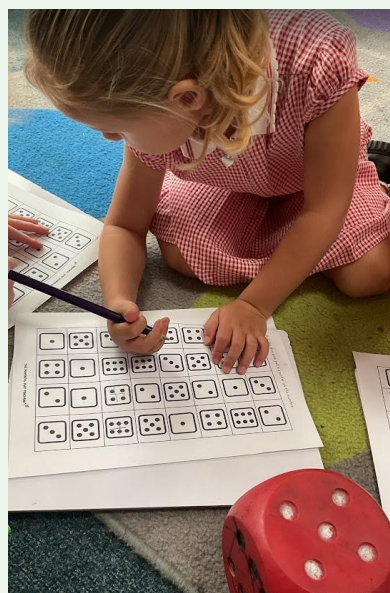
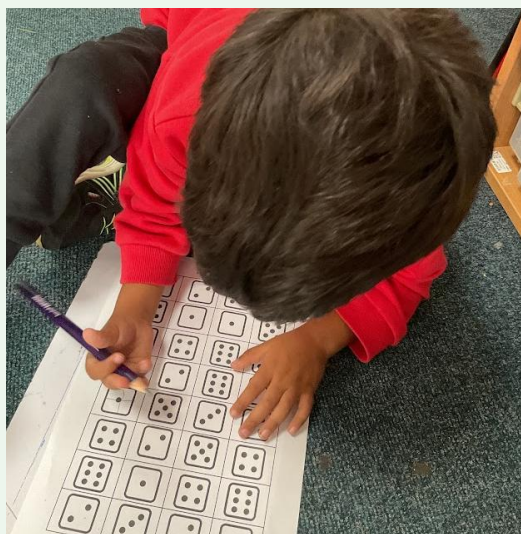
RECEPTION

This week we embarked on our **Drawing Club** journey. **Drawing Club** is a popular early childhood educational approach created by **Greg Bottrill** that uses picture books, tales, and animations to spark children's imagination, build vocabulary, and develop early writing and math skills. The book we have been focusing on this week is **Marvellous Me** by **Lisa Bullard**.

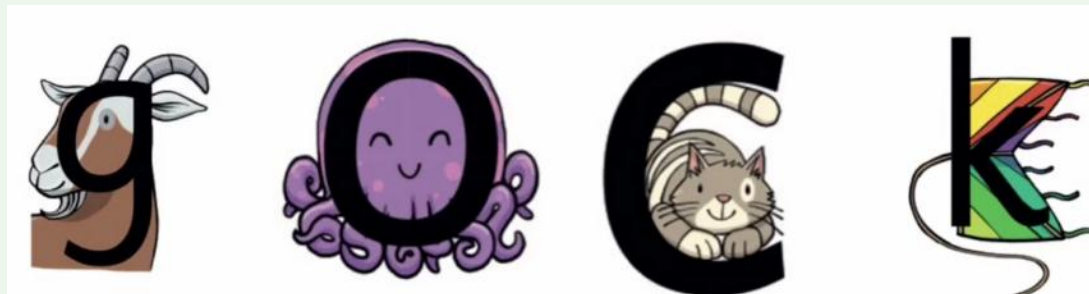


The vocabulary new vocabulary we introduced this week was **unique, special, talent, different and individual**. Our first session focused on the children drawing themselves and then finding their name card and writing their name. Our second session was all about how old the children are. They drew a cake and added the correct amount of candles for how old they are including the numeral. The children then wrote the sentence **'I am 4.'**

In Maths we introduced **the rules of counting**. The children practiced counting starting at 1 and working up in order. We also spoke about how we assign one number to each object being counted so that we are **accurate**. The children were shown how to place objects in a line to support them with accuracy and that the final object counted is the total number of items in that group. We also revisited our **subitising** from last week.



In phonics we have learnt 4 new sounds: **g, o, c and k**. We continued to identify the initial sounds in words by playing what's in the box and introduced **blending**. **Blending** is the phonics skill of taking separate letter sounds (phonemes) and smoothly merging or pushing them together to form a whole word. Phonics home learning of these sounds will be sent home in their home learning packs today.



Little Wandle Parent Portal - <https://www.littlewandle.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

Please ensure you are reading with your child 3 times a week and signing their reading record.

This week we also started our **handwriting** sessions. We introduced three patterns to the children over three days – straight line from left to right, straight line from top to bottom and a wiggly line from left to right. The children begin the session with a hand warm up to ensure their fingers are ready for writing. In handwriting we focus on **the 4 p's – posture, pencil grip, paper position and pressure.**

Tapestry update



Thank you for your patience with Tapestry. We have been focusing on spending time with your little ones and making sure they feel safe and secure in their new learning environment. Over the weekend you should receive an email activation link for your child's Tapestry. Please explore the website or app and have a go at adding an observation which we can share next week in our **Tapestry Time**. If for any reason you do not receive this then please speak to **Miss D'Souza** next week.

Reminders:

- Please label all clothing (including shoes, wellies, water bottles, coat and spare clothes)
- Spare clothes to be in a drawstring bag or plastic carrier bag (not a rucksack)
- Bookbag to be brought to school every day.
- Coat to be brought to school every day.

YEAR ONE

What a busy and exciting week of learning in Year 1!

In Maths, we have been using bead strings to represent the number 8 and matching numerals to quantities, helping us to develop our understanding of numbers.

In English, we have started our new text, The Magic Paintbrush. We have been exploring our own creativity by painting and writing about what we would create if we had a magic paintbrush of our very own!

In Science, we have been learning new vocabulary to describe materials, including transparent and opaque. We have been exploring what these words mean and how they can be used to describe different materials.

In Design and Technology, the children explored the concept of healthy eating by creating their own salads. They began by investigating where food comes from, sorting fruits and vegetables according to whether they grow above or below the ground. The children then tasted a variety of salads and shared their thoughts through descriptive writing. Next, they planned their own salads, carefully considering the ingredients and tools they would need. During the making process, they demonstrated good safety skills by using tools such as peelers, graters, and knives with care. Finally, the children enjoyed tasting their creations and evaluated them, discussing what they liked and what they might change next time.



Well done, Year 1, for another fantastic week of learning, creativity and discovery!

We would like for you to send in a family photo for the children to have in class, please send these in via tapestry or the class emails.

squirrelclass@icknielinfants.herts.sch.uk

foxclass@icknielinfants.herts.sch.uk

Tapestry

Tapestry will continue to be used throughout Year 1. You can still upload and share news from home with us, and we will share these with the class every Tuesday. We love hearing about what the children have been getting up to outside of school!

We will also continue to share your child's learning and special moments from school with you through Tapestry, so you can see all the wonderful things they are doing in Year 1.

A Few Reminders

PE days:

 Fox Class: Monday

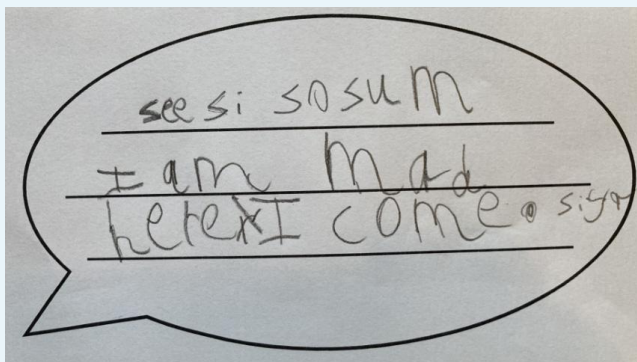
 Squirrel Class: Tuesday

Please ensure PE kits are kept on your child's peg in school.

Please also bring in a named pair of wellies for your child to leave in school. These will be useful for outdoor learning and play.

YEAR TWO

A mysterious plant appeared under the Year 2 Canopy this week which reminded us of the story, *Jack and the Beanstalk!* This week our focus text has been *Jim and the Beanstalk*, a sequel to the traditional tale. We made predictions about what we thought would happen in the sequel and thought about how Jim and the giant felt when they first met. We've also had some fun creating our own rhyming version of the well known 'fee-fi-fo-fum' rhyme. Later in the week we summarised what happens in the story, using conjunctions 'and', 'or', 'but' and 'so' to add detail to our descriptions.

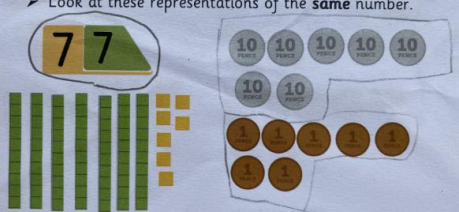


We have continued our focus on place value and developed our vocabulary to compare different representations of the same number. Some of us completed a challenge to create our own odd one out quiz! How would you answer the one below? We have also been working on counting on a back to and from 100. This can be particularly tricky as we pass over tens

benchmarks, for example moving from 39 to 40 or even going backwards!

Challenge 2LS3 Step 3

> Look at these representations of the **same** number.

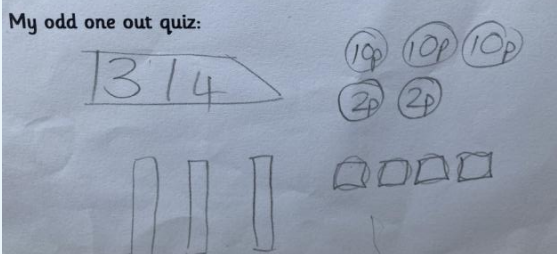


> Circle the odd one out. Explain why:

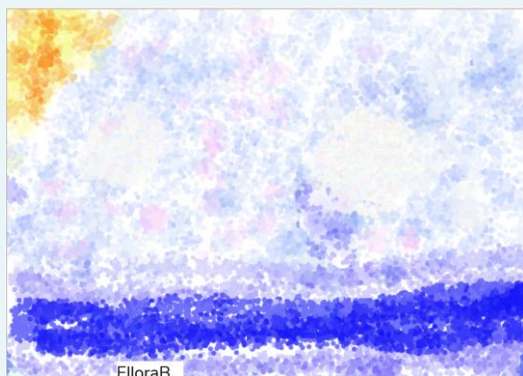
Because it is in 21915.

> Make your own odd one out quiz for a friend. Build the numbers then draw the presentations:

My odd one out quiz:



In computing we've continued our learning on creating pictures. This week we learnt how to use a style picker to help us to create art in a particular style. We were able to choose from impressionism or pointillism. We also used tools such as the 'water beaker' in order to change the shade of the colour that we chose. Here is some of our art work!



Year 2 Challenge of the Week!

Design a giant's castle. Think about:

- What would the giant's bedroom look like?
- What would he eat?
- What would his furniture look like?
- How would everything be different because the giant is so big?

Draw your castle and label it. Try adding adjectives (describing words) to give more detail. Send a photo to Penguin or Dolphin class or bring it in to receive your sticker!

Reminders:

- Please ensure all clothing (including PE kit) and water bottles are labelled with your child's full name.
- Reading books went home last week. Reading books will be collected every **Wednesday**. Please read 3 times a week at least with your child and fill in your reading record. Please make sure reading records are at school every day as adults will be writing in these during guided reading sessions.

CLASSROOM CORNER

WHAT TO ASK YOUR CHILD

- What made you smile today?
- Which Learning Power did you use today?
- Did you discover something interesting?
- Did you have a go at something new?
- Who did you enjoy working or playing with today?
- What did you get really stuck into today?
- What was the funniest thing that happened?
- Did someone do something kind for you today?
- What would you like to do again tomorrow?
- If you could show me one thing you did today, what would you choose?

TRY THIS AT HOME

The Mystery Object Challenge!

Choose an everyday object and hide it in a bag, pillowcase or behind your back. Give your child three clues about it — but don't tell them what it is!

Can they work out what you've chosen? Encourage them to ask questions that can only be answered with yes or no, such as:

"Is it bigger than my hand?"

"Is it something we use in the kitchen?"

"Is it made of plastic?"

"Can you eat it?"

Once they've guessed it, swap roles and let your child choose the mystery object!

Can they use their Curious Learning Power to ask clever questions and work out the answer? ★

STAR CELEBRATIONS ★ ★ ★ ★

STARS OF THE WEEK

Very well done to our stars of the week! These children will enjoy a tea party (squash and biscuits) with Mrs Squires at some point next week. They will also choose a story sack to enjoy at home next weekend:

Caterpillar: Eliana

Ladybird: Kai

Butterfly: James

Squirrel: Lilly

Fox: Devsi

Dolphin: Riyaan

Penguin: Esmerelda

FAMILY INFORMATION

LETTERS / FLYERS

No letters this week

CLUBS / ACTIVITIES

Current clubs at school are:

Monday lunchtime – Superstar Sports club (school funded and open to all)

Monday – Drawing Club (no spaces)

Tuesday – HTFC Tennis

Wednesday – HTFC Football