



Icknield Infants'

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



October 2026

• BRAVE

✦ CURIOUS

◆ TEAMWORK

• FOCUS

A WORD FROM MRS SQUIRES

It has been another lovely week in school, and I'm delighted to announce that our attendance bears now have names – Honey (a female bear for the KS1 classes) and Ginger (a male bear for the EYFS classes)! This week's lucky winning classes are **Fox** (again!) and **Ladybird**. Congratulations to everyone involved, and a big well done to all the children who arrived at school on time every day and helped their class achieve this success.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Progress Evening. It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers in school and to have the opportunity to celebrate the progress the children are making. I'd also like to thank those of you who took the time to share your feedback with us. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and the thanks noted will be passed on to teachers. As always, if you have any worries, please speak to your child's teacher or the school office as outlined in our [Communications and Partnership policy](#).

Next week is already our final week before the half-term break. The first half of the autumn term has flown by, and we have so much to look forward to when we return, including all of our festive Christmas events. After half term, please keep an eye on the dates section of the newsletter, where you'll find a full roundup of the key events and activities for the weeks ahead.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

THIS WEEK AT ICKNIELD



STAFF PROFILE



My name is Miss D'Souza! I am the teacher in Butterfly class and I am also the science co-ordinator across the school.

My favourite colour is purple. I love finding new recipes and cooking them for my family. I enjoy playing games with my son Arlo. He always beats me at Guess Who! I love being outside and you will often find me in the mud kitchen. I have been teaching since 2014 and I have always loved the Early Years!

CELEBRATION CORNER

Please do consider sharing any successes from home to share with the school community. All successes are welcome. You might share any of the following:

- Milestones (no matter how small)
- Showing school values or learning powers
- Arts, sports or music achievements
- Anything that shows going above and beyond e.g. extra learning

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

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



This week's No Outsiders assembly focused on the importance of inclusion and communication through the story of Leisa, a deaf school cafeteria worker in the USA. The children learned how a teacher introduced sign language to help pupils communicate with Leisa, and how this simple act grew into a whole-school initiative where everyone learned signs so that she felt included and valued. We discussed what we can learn from the story about kindness, belonging and making sure nobody feels left out, and how this links to our own school golden values.

As part of the assembly, we learned some simple signs together and practised communicating without using our voices. The children were keen to contribute their own suggestions, and we learned signs for words such as yes, no, please and thank you. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm and to hear their ideas about how we can make communication easier for everyone in our community.

ALLERGY SAFETY

Our new Allergy Safety Policy is available to read on the policies page of our school website: <https://www.icknieldinfants.herts.sch.uk/Policies/>.

To help us keep every child safe, we kindly ask all parents and carers to review their child's profile on the Arbor Parent Portal and ensure that all information we hold is accurate and up to date, including details relating to allergies. If you have not yet logged in to your Arbor account, guidance on accessing the portal can be found on the school website: <https://www.icknieldinfants.herts.sch.uk/Parents/Parent-Portal/>.

Please inform the school promptly of any changes to your child's allergy status, allergy management arrangements, or prescribed medication. This will enable us to review and update your child's Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) as necessary, ensuring that the appropriate arrangements are in place to support their safety.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

MEDICATION

If your child takes any medication for a known or diagnosed medical condition, please contact the school office as soon as possible. This enables us to assess any potential risks, ensure appropriate support is in place during the school day, and consider whether an individual Healthcare Plan may be required.

Keeping our medical information up to date helps us provide the safest possible environment for all children. Thank you for your support in sharing any relevant information with the administration team.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our School Council will be starting up again after half term, with a new structure that gives more children the opportunity to take on leadership roles throughout the year. Representatives and focus areas will change each term, allowing a wider range of pupils to get involved.

Next half term, we will be electing **Curriculum Leaders**. Their role will include taking part in learning walks, sharing feedback from their peers, helping to agree actions for improvement, and creating video feedback to share with governors.

Following each term, a new group of representatives will be elected. From the spring term onwards, Reception children will also be invited to take part in the election process.

This week, I wrote to all classes to explain the role and invite applications. Class elections are currently taking place, and I look forward to sharing the names of next half term's councillors in next week's newsletter.

We will also be including regular updates from the School Council in future newsletters so that families can follow the important work they are doing across the school.

CITIZENS ADVICE



We recently met with Christine Low from Citizens Advice North Hertfordshire. We are really excited to be working closely with Christine as she will be able to give us a smooth link into accessing all the support that the CANH offers.

“Hi everyone – I’m Christine and I work as a Community Engagement volunteer at Citizens Advice North Herts. We are your

local Citizens Advice based at 49 Station Road in Letchworth. We provide free, confidential advice and information on a wide

range of issues, including benefits, housing, energy costs, debt, and scams. We know times are really tough at the moment for most people, and it can be hard to ask for help or even have the time to think things through. I hope I can make that a bit easier by coming in to school for a quick chat over coffee. We’ve just launched a new page on our website for Letchworth residents Letchworth Financial Health Project - Citizens Advice North Hertfordshire This gives you lots of information on topics such as universal credit, social tariffs and children’s DLA. We also share useful advice, information and top tips on our social media channels, so please follow us on Facebook and Instagram: @northhertscab Looking forward to meeting you throughout the school year”

If you would like to connect with Christine or Citizens Advice North Herts, please let us know and we can give you more details. Or you can email letchworthfinancialhealth@nhdcab.org.uk

COMING UP

- PTA disco

DON'T FORGET

As set out in our [Uniform Policy](#), all children are expected to attend school in **full school uniform** every day, including on PE days.

At school, we place great importance on developing children's independence and self-care skills. This includes learning to dress and change independently, which is an important life skill. In line with age-appropriate safeguarding and changing arrangements, children change for PE at school and are encouraged to take increasing responsibility for managing this independently.

We appreciate parents' support in ensuring children arrive at school in the correct uniform each day and have their PE kit available at school when needed. Working together helps us promote independence, confidence and readiness for learning across the school.

PTA & COMMUNITY

PTA MESSAGE

 Halloween Disco

The deadline for purchasing tickets is now closed.

Children who will be in attendance are permitted to change in their classrooms alongside their adult, the adult will then need to escort their child to the courtyard entrance next to reception. Collection is from the same place at 5pm. Fancy dress welcome!

PTA Contributions

Teachers have recently provided the PTA with a wishlist of enrichment equipment for our children (please see the full list attached). I am pleased to say that with the funds we have raised so far, we have already been able to buy 2 items on the list, our full aim is to purchase everything on the list by the Summer term. Please look out for images of our children engaging with the equipment over the coming weeks. Thank you for your continued support.

 Quiz night

Thank you to those who responded the vote, it has been decided that the quiz night set for the 19th November will now be postponed until 9th February. Get it in your diaries! Watch this space for updates.

LOOK WHAT WE'VE BEEN LEARNING!



NURSERY

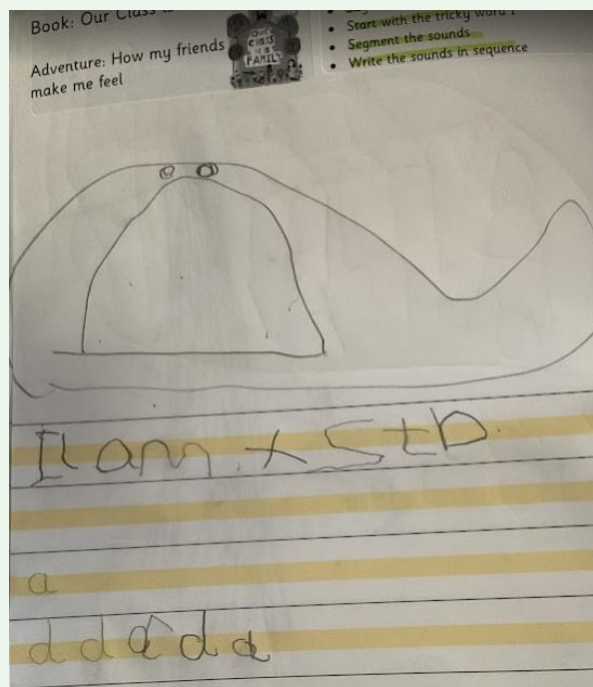
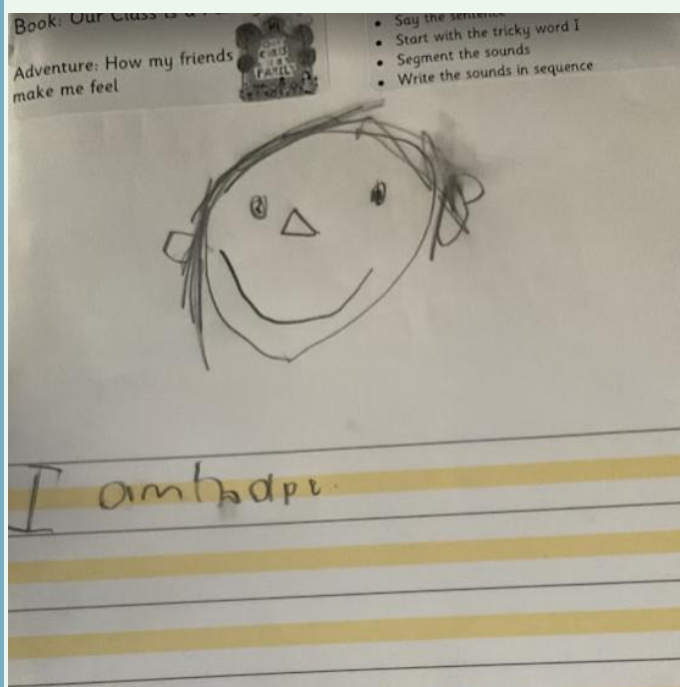
Please see Tapestry for Mrs Maw's weekly update. If children have any interesting play moments, show school values or learning powers, or just want to share something from home with their teacher, please do upload it on Tapestry. Don't worry about lots of text – a simple photo and small caption is perfect!

RECEPTION

This week in **Drawing Club** we read the book '**Our Class is a Family**' by **Shannon Olsen**. We spoke with the children about when we are at school, we are **Butterfly Class Family / Ladybird Class Family**.



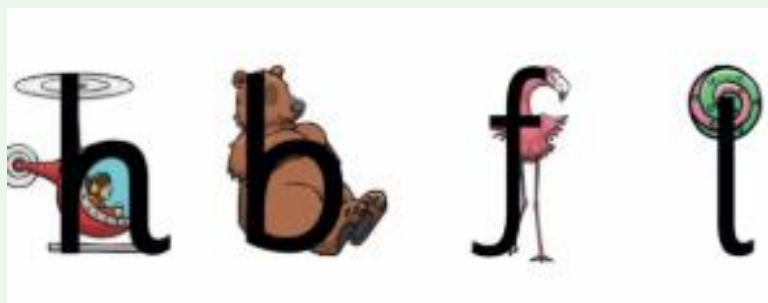
The new vocabulary we introduced this week was **friends, companions, joy, community and emotions**. Our first session focused on **our friends**. The children drew their friends and wrote their names or initial sounds from their names using the phoneme mat to support them. We then moved on to **emotion**, and how our friends make us feel. The children were modelled the sentence '**I am happy**' and could replace the last word with their own emotion.



In Maths we introduced **repeating patterns**. These are sequences of shapes, colours, objects, sounds or movements that repeat in a predictable order. The children loved taking part in their repeating pattern rainbow challenge to consolidate their learning.



In phonics we have learnt 4 new sounds: **h, b, f and l**. 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 continued 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**.

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who took time out of their evenings to attend our first progress evening! We loved talking to all of you about your children and how well they have settled in! **Little Wandle mnemonics have been sent home in learning packs along with your child's name writing template.**

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

It has been another lovely week in Year 1!

The children have been busy writing their own versions of The Magic Paintbrush. They have been using their imaginations to invent their own magical objects and create exciting new characters. It has been wonderful to see their creativity shine through their storytelling!

In Maths, we have been revisiting different ways to represent and partition numbers using ten frames and part-whole models. We have also been introduced to Cuisenaire rods, which are helping the children to explore and practise their number bonds to 10 in a hands-on and engaging way.

In PSHE, we have been exploring and celebrating diversity through our OK to Be Me cultural awareness topic. Across six lessons, we learned about similarities and differences, skin colour, race and racism, and what it means to be anti-racist. We also explored cultures and traditions from around the world, discussed the importance of challenging stereotypes, and learned how to recognise truths and untruths about others. Through discussions and fun activities, the children developed key skills such as empathy, respect, self-awareness and critical thinking. We finished by reflecting on our learning and considering how we can all make a positive difference. We are proud of our children for embracing the message that different people, different cultures and different beliefs make our world special, and together we can create a kinder, fairer world!

squirrelclass@icknielinfants.herts.sch.uk

foxclass@icknielinfants.herts.sch.uk

Reminders

PE days:

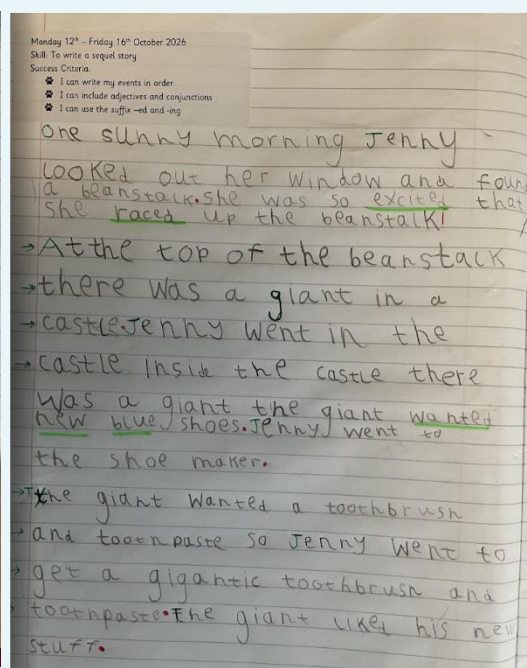
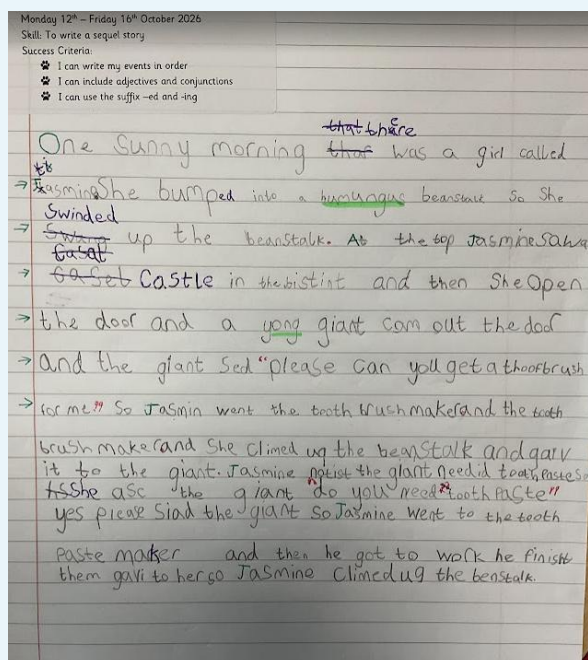
-  **Fox Class:** Monday
-  **Squirrel Class:** Tuesday

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

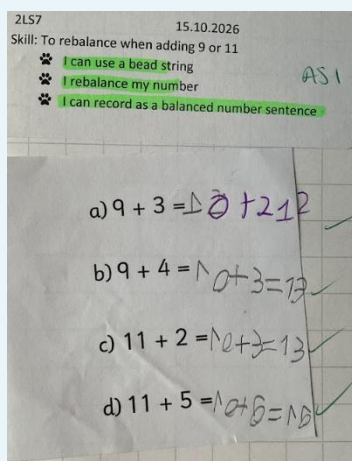
Please also bring in a **named pair of wellies** for your child to leave in school. These will be useful for outdoor learning and play.

YEAR TWO

We have all become authors in Year 2 this week as we have written our own sequels to the story *Jim and the Beanstalk!* We have thought about story openers and used our recent learning about adjectives and adverbials to make our stories even more exciting. We can't wait to share them once we have finished our endings today!



In Maths, we discussed how it is often quicker and easier to add a number to 10 than it is to 9 or 11. We call this rebalancing and it is a useful strategy for us to use in our mental maths. We practised rebalancing some equations.



We've had a very musical week this week as we learnt about the music of South Africa and learnt the South Africa inspired song, *Hand, Feet and Heart*. We have been singing, as well as using the djembe drums. In music assembly next week Year 2 will perform the song to Year 1. We know they will be very impressed!

Year 2 Challenge!

Let's make our performance in music assembly on Thursday the best it can be! Here is a link to a recording of the song *Hand, Feet and Heart*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8INn5owPREY>

Practise the song and perhaps you can sing it together with your family and choose who will sing the call and who will sing the response in the chorus. We'd love to hear some family performances if you'd like to email us a video!

Send an email to the class email or a note to let us know how it went you will receive your smelly sticker!!

Reminders

- Please ensure all clothing (including PE kit) and water bottles are labelled with your child's full name.
- 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 curious today?
- 🤝 How did you show kindness to someone today?
- 🎨 What was the most interesting thing you created today?
- 🔍 What did you discover that you didn't know before?
- ★ What was the best part of your day?
- 🧘 What challenged you today?

TRY THIS AT HOME

Sink or Float?

Turn bath time, washing up time, or a bowl of water into a mini science investigation!

Collect a selection of household objects and ask your child to predict whether each item will sink or float.

😊 Who did you enjoy spending time with today?

🎉 What are you looking forward to tomorrow?

Before testing, encourage them to explain their thinking:

🤔 Why do you think that one will float?

As you test each item: ☒ Sort them into "sink" and "float" groups.

🎯 Extra challenge: Can your child find something that surprises them?

📄 Talk about it: What do the floating objects have in common? What about the sinking ones?

The best learning often starts with a simple question and a little curiosity!

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 (to be returned by Wednesday please).

Caterpillar: Molly

Ladybird: Julian

Butterfly: Mollie

Squirrel: Dylan

Fox: Finlay

Dolphin: Nila

Penguin: Teo

FAMILY INFORMATION

LETTERS / FLYERS

PTA flyer

HTFC after school club sign up info

HTFC October half term camp

IRock RSL awards

Garden City Hospice Christmas tractor letter and colouring sheet

Bedford Road Pre School half term Halloween party poster

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