



Icknield Infants'

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



October 2026

• BRAVE

✦ CURIOUS

◆ TEAMWORK

• FOCUS

A WORD FROM MRS SQUIRES

This week the weather has taken a turn and we have had a mix of sun, rain and chilly weather during play times. We will aim to have children outside every day whatever the weather so do please send in appropriate clothes, layers, and waterproofs as we go further into Autumn.

Last week we began a lining up competition with the children. In class discussions, the children have decided that the reward for the best lining up will be to **be play rangers and get to wear a hi-vis the following week**. These children will be allowed out a few minutes early to help set up for lunch time. The winners of this weeks lining up leaders is Penguin class!

This week, the governing body of the school had its first Full Governing Body meeting of the year. During the meeting, several policies were ratified. Many of these were updated policies and our statutory policies can always be found on our school website [here](#). However, there were also a number of new policies, including our new Relationships and Behaviour Policy, a Communication and Partnership Policy and our Food and Healthy Eating Policy, which reflect the work we are already doing in school. These can all be found alongside this newsletter for your perusal. Should any of our parents or carers ever wish to see a school policy that is not found on our website, please contact the school office who will be happy to oblige.

This is the second week for our Attendance Bears to spend time in classes. Last week, the bears enjoyed being cuddled and changed into their various outfits often. They explored the classrooms and even joined the children in assembly and for flu vaccinations. Congratulations to this week's winners Caterpillar and Fox for the highest combined class attendance in each key stage. We hope you enjoy your visitors for the next week!

The nominees for the Attendance Bear names are now in – the office are in deep discussion and we will announce the names of the bears bright and early on Monday morning!

From this week, we will now have a 'No Outsider's Story in a reading assembly every other Friday. The alternate Friday will focus on OPAL. Today was our first No Outsider's Story. We read **Elmer** by David McKee and discussed being different. We compared hands with those around us and found different colours of skin, different sizes and this led to a discussion on celebrating difference in our school and the wider world.

THIS WEEK AT ICKNIELD



STAFF PROFILE



My name is Mrs Sanders! I am a teaching assistant in the Year 2 classes and I also work as a play leader at lunch time.

My favourite colour is lilac. I love to bake, play sudoku and play a good

CELEBRATION CORNER



This is Arthur! He recently won the weekly Superstar trophy at his Antspants sports club, which is a multi-sports group where children learn all about different sports. Arthur received his award for being a very good listener, following instructions and

game of monopoly! I enjoy spending time with my family. My favourite lessons at school are phonics and maths.

being a good team player. His special achievement was dribbling the ball, and even though he found this very tricky, he never gave up and in the end managed to dribble the ball all by himself! Great job showing school values outside of school, Arthur!

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.

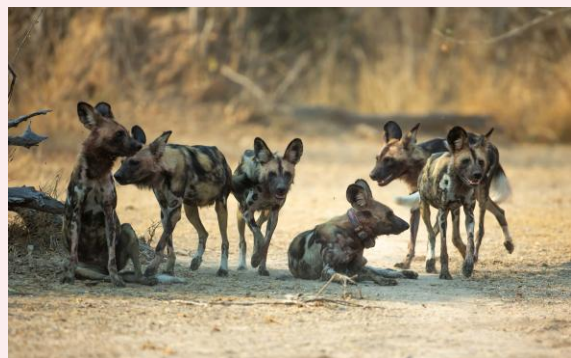
PTA non-uniform day - Friday 16th October

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 explored the story *Feels Like Home*, inspired by three wild dogs in Africa who made an incredible 2,500-mile journey together over eight months to find a new place to belong. We talked about the challenges they faced along the way and how they relied on one another to overcome obstacles, reminding us that everyone needs friendship, support and a sense of belonging.

The children reflected on what makes somewhere feel like home and how we can help others feel welcomed, valued and included. We discussed the importance of kindness, teamwork and looking out for one another so that nobody feels like an outsider. It was a wonderful

opportunity to reinforce our No Outsiders message that we all belong and that our school is a place where everyone is welcome.

PROGRESS EVENING – AUTUMN TERM 2020

Reminder that Progress Evening will take place in the School Hall this term on the following dates:

Wednesday 14th October 2026, 3.30pm-6.00pm

Thursday 15th October 2026, 3.30pm-6.00pm

Appointments should be booked online via the [Arbor Parent Portal](#). The booking system will be available during the following period:

Tuesday 29th September 2026, 12.00pm – online booking system opened

Monday 12th October 2026, 12.00pm – online booking system closes

Appointments are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, so we recommend booking your preferred 10-minute appointment as early as possible, particularly if your availability is limited.

If you have not previously accessed the Arbor Parent Portal, please create an account by visiting <https://icknield-primary-school.uk.arbor.sc>. Select 'First time logging in' and use the email address you have registered with the school as your username.

Further information and guidance on using the Arbor Parent Portal can be found on the school website: <https://www.icknieldinfants.herts.sch.uk/Parents/Parent-Portal/>.

If you have any queries or require support accessing the booking system, please contact the school office on 01462 620406 or email admin@icknieldinfants.herts.sch.uk.

Stronger Together Through Football

Monday 26th October

10:00am – 2:00pm

Baldock Arena

For children aged 7 –11

FREE to attend

This Activity Day is specifically for children who have experienced the death of someone important to them.

The day will give children the chance to enjoy football in a relaxed and supportive environment, while spending time with other children who have also experienced a bereavement. Alongside having fun and being active, the day is about building confidence, making connections and helping children recognise that they are not alone in their experience of grief.

Booking is simple: parents and carers can scan the QR code on the attached flyer or book directly through the Events page on the Stand-by-me website (www.stand-by-me.org.uk/events). Places are limited, so we would encourage families who are interested to register as soon as possible.

MESSAGE FROM HERTFORDSHIRE LIBRARIES

Dear Reception Parents/Carers,

Has your child taken part in our My First Library Adventure yet? Don't forget to bring your special bookmark (which has been sent home with your child) into the library to take part. Children can bring their library card, or join the library, to take part. (Please bring proof of your name and address to join). Fifty lucky Reception pupils who complete the My First Library Adventure will win a personalised, signed book from Alice Hemming and Nicola Slater (author and illustrator of 'The Leaf Thief' series) with two overall winners enjoying a visit from Alice and Nicola with their whole class.

Check out our YouTube video to find out more and celebrate the joy of last year's winners visits with author/illustrator Ged Adamson: <https://youtu.be/Y-lwRZcXwEo>

Don't worry if you have lost the bookmark – just visit the library and ask for a new one. The My First Library Adventure runs until 19 December so we hope to see you soon.

COMING UP

- Online booking closes for Progress Evening
- Progress Evening next week
- 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 MESSAGE

🎃 Halloween Disco

Tickets are still available. The deadline for payments is **Friday 16th October**.

Please note, parents are not invited. We are lucky to have a fantastic class rep team who have offered to volunteer so we do not need any additional adult helpers this time. If it has been pre agreed that an adult is coming along to support their child then this is unchanged.

If you have any questions regarding this, please email PTA@icknielinfants.herts.sch.uk

🎅 Santa's Grotto & Christmas Market

Thank you again for those who came out to the PTA paying station on Wednesday. I can now confirm there are 12 spaces remaining for this event. Tickets can be purchased again at the Halloween disco on Friday 23rd October. If tickets sell out, Santa may be able to stay around for another day so please look out for further details on this.

👕🧦 Own clothes day Friday 16th October

Any donations can be dropped off in a box/crate left outside your child's classroom in the morning.

As always, if you have any questions please contact PTA@icknielinfants.herts.sch.uk

LOOK WHAT WE'VE BEEN LEARNING!

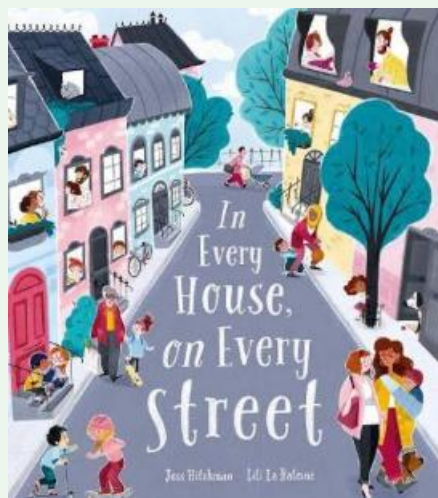


NURSERY

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!

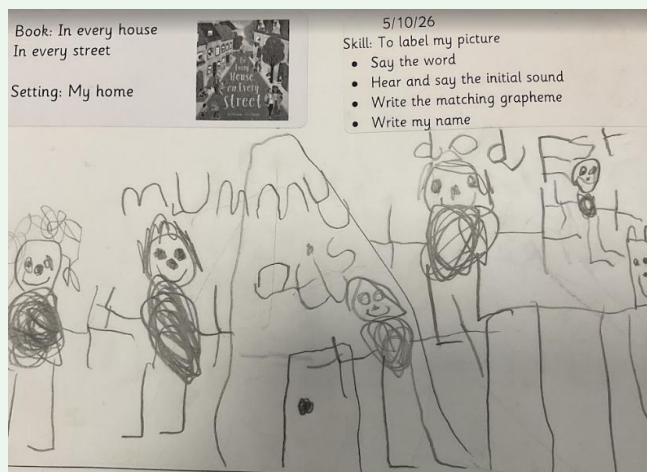
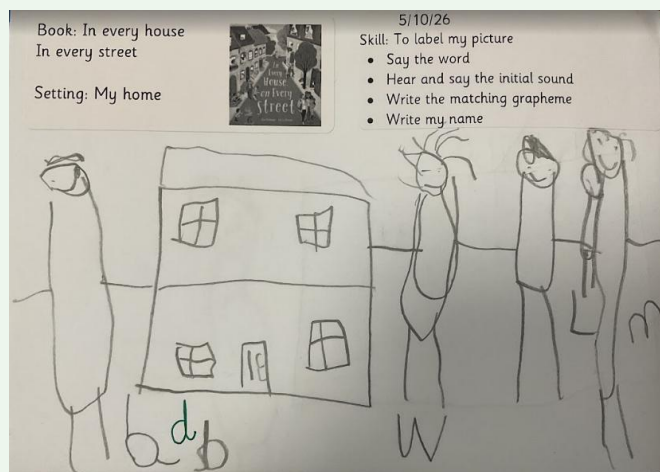
RECEPTION

This week we continued our **Drawing Club** journey. The book we have been focusing on this week is **In every house on every street by Jess Hitchman Bullard**.



The new vocabulary we introduced this week was **parents, siblings, routines, activities and together**. Our first session focused on the children drawing their home and their family members. They then used initial sounds to label. **M for Mummy**,

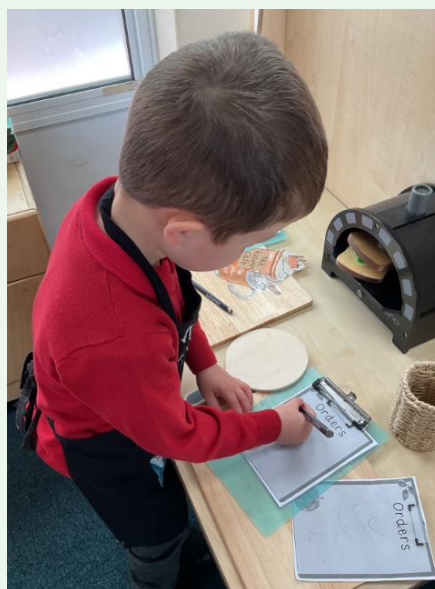
d for Daddy. In the second session we spoke about different **activities** we like to do at home. Some lovely ideas included having dippy eggs with my family and playing with magnetic blocks.



In Maths we introduced **size language**. We focused on **height** using the vocabulary **short, taller and tallest** and **length** using the vocabulary **short and long**. The children loved taking part in our first red rainbow challenge this week where they had order the heights of objects and pictures.



This week the children have loved some of the new provision that has been introduced. In Ladybird class Mrs Downer has opened **The Autumn Café**. Children have loved taking orders from their friends and serving some warm delicious treats!



In Butterfly Class we have loved conker painting and **being artists!**



In phonics we have learnt 4 new sounds: **ck, e, u and r**. 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**.

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.

Maths

This week in Maths, we have been learning to **order numbers within 20**. We have been exploring missing numbers and using sentence stems to explain our thinking. For example: *"The missing number is 3 because it comes after 2 and before 4."* We have been working hard to explain how we know our answers rather than simply giving them!

English

In English, we have been learning to **order the events in a story** and verbally retell it using key details. We have also started to think creatively about inventing our **own versions of *The Magic Paintbrush***. The children have begun planning their stories and thinking carefully about the characters they would like to include in their own versions.

Science

Our learning about **materials** has continued this week. We went on a material hunt outside, looking carefully at the different materials we could find around us. We then compared and grouped materials according to their **properties**, such as whether they are waterproof. We have been developing our scientific vocabulary and thinking carefully about why different materials are suitable for different purposes.

History

In History, we have been learning about **our family history**. We have been practising putting events in chronological order and exploring our own **family trees**. We have also been discussing how our childhoods are different from those of our grandparents, thinking about how toys, games, school and everyday life have changed over time.

What a busy and exciting week of learning!

squirrelclass@icknielinfants.herts.sch.uk

foxclass@icknielinfants.herts.sch.uk

 Reminders**PE days:**

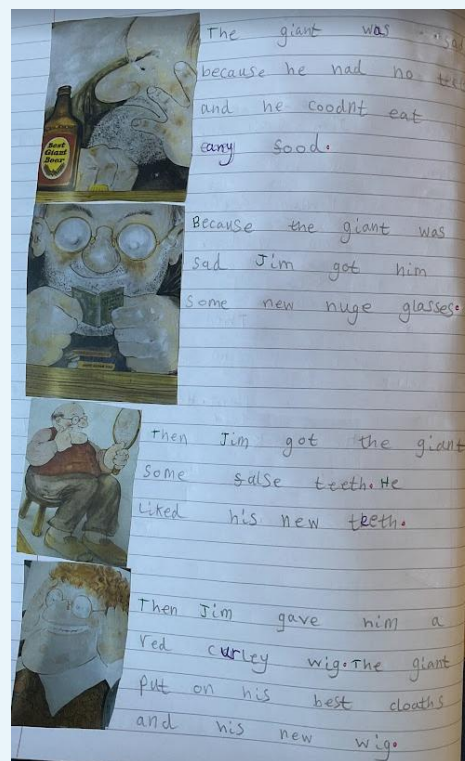
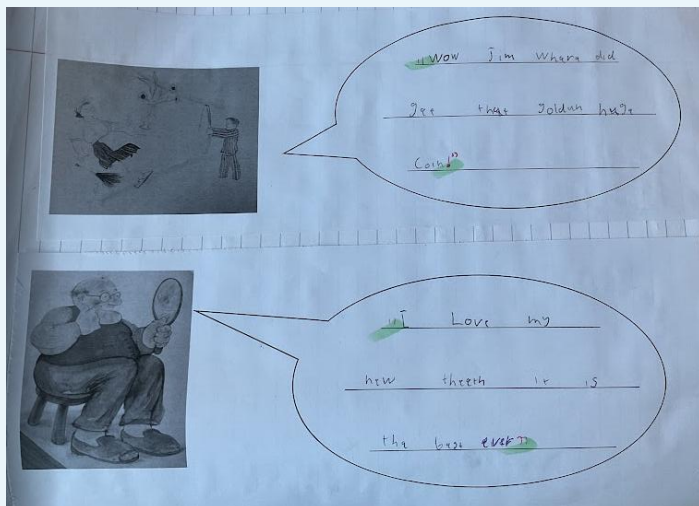
-  **Fox Class:** Monday
-  **Squirrel Class:** Tuesday

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

What a wonderful week we have had in Year 2! In English we have sequenced the story of Jim and the Beanstalk and written it in our own words! We wrote our own dialogue for the characters in the story, using inverted commas!



In Maths, we have been looking at adding numbers to a number line by estimating and using benchmarks! Then, we measured the length, mass and capacity of objects in the classroom! We used the greater than and less than symbols to compare the objects.

Mass		
Object 1	< > =	Object 2
Pear	>	orange
Pen	>	pencil
timer	<	~~X~~ Pear
Capacity		
Object 1	< > =	Object 2
Small Jug	<	barbie cup
green cup	<	Pen Pot
big Jug	<	Cylinders
Length		
Object 1	< > =	Object 2
Book	>	Pen
glue	>	Pom Pom

In Penguin Class, we designed and made our very own Giant's glasses from Jim and the Beanstalk! We had to think about what resources would be best to use, what colour would make them the most attractive and what we would use to stick our resources together.



In our innovation area, we have been working hard to make habitats for different animals. We had to think about where they live, what they need to survive and how they would be safe from predators/how they would catch their prey.



Year 2 Challenge!

This week we have learnt lots about some of the continents of the world: Asia, Africa, Europe and Antarctica.

Your challenge this week is to draw or write some facts about one of the continents we haven't learnt about yet! You could choose North America, South America or Oceania!

You could find out:

- What the weather is like.
- What animals live there.

- Any famous landmarks.

Bring your challenge in or send a photo of it to our class emails and 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 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

- ❤️ Did you help someone today?
- 😊 Who made you smile today?
- 📖 Can you teach me something you learned today?
- 🐻 What was something tricky that you kept trying?
- 🎯 What did you concentrate really hard on today?
- 👉 Who did you play with today?
- 🌱 Did you make a mistake that helped you learn?
- 👏 What are you proud of today?

TRY THIS AT HOME

The Memory Tray Challenge 🧠

Collect 5-10 everyday items from around the house and place them on a tray, table or tea towel.

Let your child look carefully at the items for 30 seconds. Then cover them with a cloth or tea towel. Can they remember what was there?

For an extra challenge: 👁️ Remove one item while it's covered. Can they spot what's missing?

🔄 Swap two items around. Can they tell what's changed?

🎯 Let your child be the leader and test the adults!

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: Edin

Ladybird: Max

Butterfly: Robin

Squirrel: Ariella

Fox: Arlo

Dolphin: Luna

Penguin: Dylan

LETTERS / FLYERS

Letter from Mrs Squires
Relationships and Behaviour Policy
Food and Healthy Eating Policy
Communication and Partnership Policy
HCL winter menu (for after half term)
Stronger together through football flyer

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