

Headteacher Message

I cannot believe how quickly this term has gone! As we reach the final newsletter before half term, I wanted to take a moment to celebrate the wonderful learning and achievements that have taken place across our school this week.

This week has been a real round-up of the term, with classes completing projects they have been working incredibly hard on. It's been wonderful to reflect on the specific "wins" that illustrate our school values, and I'm so proud of what our children have

accomplished.

Saplings were greeted this week with a huge bear in their classroom – it was incredible to see their reactions to the size of the bear in real life and watching them make comparisons. Their wonder and curiosity were absolutely delightful!



On Wednesday, Elms put on a fantastic class assembly. Parents, you should be incredibly proud of them – they spoke with confidence and were so enthusiastic to share their learning. From moving books and e-books to written work, raining and cloudy weather diaries, and so much more, they truly showcased everything they've been working on. Well done, Elms, and thank you to the teachers and staff for putting this together. The Class have also been working very hard on some beautiful images of the seasons!



Beech have created some fantastic Bog Babies and have been bringing in their habitats from home. It has been wonderful to see their creativity and effort at home too – this home-school partnership really does make such a difference to the children's learning.



In Willows on Thursday, the children completed their DT work, making pneumatic toys. All children worked incredibly well together and were thoughtful in what they were making. Well done, Miss Johnson, for a brilliant day of DT!



Hazel class have created some great maps for Children's Mental Health Week. They, along with all other children throughout the school, have been

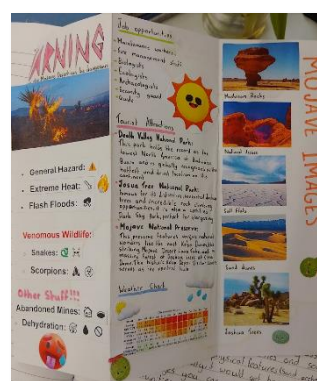
so thoughtful about drawing their own maps and showcasing things that are important to them. It was also wonderful to see the class making their musical instruments. They have come up with some inventive ideas and look forward to sharing them with you at home!

Ash class have enjoyed their science work this term, and this week they've been exploring the solubility of different materials – wonderful hands-on learning! I was lucky enough to walk in when they were playing their final pieces on the glockenspiel that they had been working on all term. I could see how much effort they had put in and it was truly brilliant. They all knew what they were doing and when and did it with such joy and enthusiasm. Thank you for sharing this with me Year 5.



Finally, Oaks have been showing us what they know in

Geography, writing about different deserts around the world. They have found out lots of information and written about whether they would like to live in a desert or not. Would you? It may be peaceful for a short period of time!



This term, Year 1 have loved Nature School. It has been great seeing them coming back with enthusiasm and covered in mud – how it should be! Sorry about any extra washing though! Next term will be Reception Class.

We have had several assemblies this week focusing on Children's Mental Health Week, Safer Internet Day, and our Collective Worship.

Children's Mental Health Week has been focusing on the theme 'This is My Place', which is all about belonging and how we can feel a sense of belonging and help others feel like they belong. The children have been fantastic at discussing this and understanding that it's not just the big things that make a difference – it's the little things that count. It has been beautiful to see what the children have been doing, and I am so grateful for this. Holding doors, asking how each other are, smiling, saying hello, looking out for someone who might feel left out – these things help others feel they belong in our community and make me smile each day!

This links beautifully with one of Jesus' teachings we have been exploring this week: The Sermon on the Mount. Jesus' message helps us see that everyone belongs in God's family. In our school family, we can also help each other feel they belong by continuing to do these small acts of love and kindness.

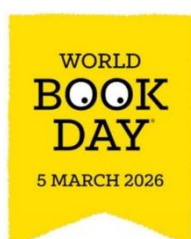
We continued this celebration on Thursday with children and staff coming in wearing something that is comfy, unique, cultural, or makes them THEM! The children were so happy to talk about what they were wearing and why. Each of us is different, but we all fit in at Ide Hill and truly belong.

For Safer Internet Week, we have been exploring the use of AI and the benefits of this, but also how to use it safely and responsibly. It's so important that our children understand how to stay safe online, as technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues. There is lots out there to support parents and schools with being safe online - do have a look on our website for more information.

I hope you all have a wonderful half term together. We look forward to seeing you in a week's time, refreshed and ready for the exciting term ahead!

World Book Day - Thursday 5th March

Before we know it, World Book Day will be upon us again in March. It is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the joyful and immersive world that reading brings us - hopefully it will inspire children to



fall in love with reading or rekindle the excitement of choosing an inspiring text. The possibilities are endless!

This year we are organising the following activities for the children:

- Time to dress up again as your favourite character, if you wish to. Alternatively, you can wear home clothes - wear what you feel comfortable in.
- Bring some reading material that you enjoy to school to share in class - books, comics, newspapers, magazines, leaflet from somewhere you've been, etc
- "Reading Time = My Time" activities in class. You will be given time throughout the day to read what you have brought in from home quietly by yourself or share with a friend. This will be an opportunity to consider how you feel when you are reading.
- Illustrate your own book cover - this can be for a favourite book or for your own book idea. We would like to display your creative talents in school!

Matilda – School Production & West End Trip

By now, you will be aware of our exciting Matilda production taking place on 15th July. We can't wait to see it all come together on stage!

As part of this fantastic experience, we are also planning a West End trip to see Matilda for years 3 to 6. Please remember that deposits must be paid by 6th March to secure your child's place.



PTA Race Night – Friday 6th March

Following on from last year's fantastic evening, we're excited to welcome you back for another fun-filled Race Night to raise money for Ide Hill Primary School.

Your ticket includes a two-course supper and we'll have a cash/card bar available. You can also pre-order drinks for your table (tables of 8 or 10).

Across the evening, 8 races will be run. Bets are £1 per ticket, and each race will start once the betting desk closes. Winners take the payout for each race.

There will also be opportunities to sponsor races in advance, as well as buy owners, trainers, and jockeys ahead of the night — with prizes to be won.

Tickets can be booked on School Gateway. When booking please let us know in the comments whose table you are on or leave blank and we will allocate you to a table.



You will need cash on the night to place bets. We can't wait to see you there!

Keeping Everyone Safe at Drop-Off and Pick-Up

We understand that mornings can be busy for families, and we recognise that parking is currently more challenging due to the ongoing works at the church. With fewer spaces available, congestion has increased, and we sincerely appreciate your patience while this work continues. The church project is expected to be completed after half term, which should help to ease pressure on parking in the village.

In the meantime, the safety of our children, families, and local residents must remain our highest priority. Unsafe parking or driving significantly increases the risk of an accident, and that is something none of us want. It is also essential that we maintain positive relationships and good communication with our neighbours in the village, who are directly affected by parking at drop-off and collection times.

We therefore ask that you please ensure you:

- Do not park or stop on the yellow zig-zag lines
- Do not park on the edge of the roundabout
- Do not park on pavements
- Drive slowly and carefully at all times
- Avoid blocking residents' driveways

If possible, you may wish to park at the shop and walk into the village, which can help reduce congestion around the school.

We appreciate that everyone has places to be, particularly in the mornings. However, it is essential

that we follow these guidelines, remain patient, and show consideration for our neighbours. If necessary, please wait for a suitable parking space rather than stopping in an unsafe area.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support in helping us keep both our school community and village safe.

New Government Internet Safety Website

The Government need your help in keeping children safe online. They're launching a new website on 16th February 2026 to support families and encourage regular conversations about what they're seeing online, asking simple questions, like "who shared this" and "why?".

Based on parents' main concerns and needs, it provides:

- tips for parents' conversations with their children
- actions to support each stage of their child's life
- parental controls information

They are also signposting to trusted resources from charities and third parties, where parents can access other forms of support (like speaking to an expert).

[Kids Online Safety Website](#)

The website will continue to grow and be developed this year, supporting the [Online Safety Act](#) and wider government aims.

