

## Headteacher Message

What a fantastic week we've had at Ide Hill! The energy and enthusiasm for learning throughout the school has been wonderful to see, with children fully engaged in their lessons and making excellent progress. I have been having a look at some of the interventions taking place this week and it is great to see the hard work taking place.

Our open morning was a tremendous success – thank you to everyone who attended. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and it was lovely to share our school with prospective families. We have two more open events coming up, so if you know anyone considering Ide Hill for their child, please do encourage them to contact the school office to book a place. Word of mouth is so valuable!

This week we also had our Kent Compliance health and safety check – and I'm delighted to report we passed with flying colours! A huge thank you to Mrs Harland for her meticulous work in overseeing all our health and safety procedures and keeping everything running smoothly. It's this attention to detail that helps keep our children safe and our school environment excellent. Looking ahead to tonight's chilli and quiz night – I'm very much looking forward to it! Let's hope the teachers manage to answer a few questions correctly!

We conducted our pupil survey this week, and it was absolutely fantastic to hear what the children think about their school. You'll see some of their wonderful comments in this newsletter and on our Instagram page – they really do say it all! Don't worry, parents – you'll have your opportunity to share your views later this year too. In the meantime, we have our Parents' Rep meeting on Monday, so please do pass any comments (positive or otherwise!) to your class reps so they can share them with us. We genuinely value all feedback, and yes, we do love hearing the positives too! Have a wonderful weekend!

## Black History Month 2025

This October, we're celebrating Black History Month across our school, and we're excited to share a special opportunity for our pupils in Years 1 to 6. Next week, all classes from Year 1 to Year 6 will be taking part in an engaging webinar led by Picture News, joining Katie Harrison and special guest **Swarzy**, BBC presenter, as they explore this year's powerful theme: **'Standing Firm in Power and Pride'**. This interactive session will provide our pupils with the opportunity to learn about significant Black figures and their contributions to society, explore themes of resilience, pride and empowerment, engage in age-appropriate discussions about equality and inclusion, and celebrate Black history, heritage and culture. We encourage you to continue these important conversations at home with your children, and we'd love to hear what they've learned from the webinar. Please

look out for more information about what else we'll be doing throughout this month and the rest of the year as we continue to focus on this theme and celebrate the diverse cultures and languages represented across our school community

See BBC Bitesize for some more info: [Black History Month | History | KS2 | Ages 7-11 - BBC Bitesize](#)

## Nurture

At Ide Hill, we are committed to creating a nurturing environment where every child feels safe, valued and supported to thrive. Our approach is guided by the **6 Principles of Nurture**, which underpin everything we do across our school community and is part of the reason we are currently updating our behaviour policy to be inline with this.

### The 6 Principles of Nurture:

#### 1. Children's learning is understood developmentally

We recognise that all children develop at different rates and may need support in different areas. Our teachers carefully assess where each child is in their learning journey and provide appropriate support to help them progress.

#### 2. The classroom offers a safe base

Every classroom at Ide Hill is designed to be a calm, welcoming space where children feel secure and ready to learn. Our staff work hard to build trusting relationships with pupils so they know there's always someone they can turn to.

#### 3. The importance of nurture for the development of wellbeing

We understand that children's emotional wellbeing is just as important as their academic progress. Through our pastoral support, circle times and whole-school approach to mental health, we help children develop resilience and confidence.

#### 4. Language is a vital means of communication

We encourage children to express their thoughts, feelings and ideas through talk. From our youngest learners in Reception to our Year 6 pupils, we create opportunities for meaningful conversations and help children develop the vocabulary they need to communicate effectively.

#### 5. All behaviour is communication

When children struggle with their behaviour, we take time to understand what they're trying to tell us. Our staff are trained to look beyond the behaviour to identify any underlying needs and provide appropriate support.

#### 6. The importance of transition in children's lives

We recognise that changes can be challenging for children. Whether it's starting school, moving between year groups, or preparing for secondary school, we provide careful support during these important transitions to help every child feel confident and prepared.

These nurturing principles help us ensure that every child at Ide Hill has the foundations they need to flourish academically, socially and emotionally.

## Healthy Snacks and Playground Rubbish – Important Update

At Ide Hill CofE Primary School, we are committed to supporting the health and wellbeing of our pupils, as well as maintaining a clean and welcoming school environment.

### Recently, we have noticed:

- An increase in the variety of snacks brought in for break time, including crisps and other items that are not ideal for this time of day
- A rise in rubbish being left on the playground after break times

### New Arrangements After Half Term

In line with government guidance, we are requesting that:

- Only fresh fruit or vegetables are permitted at break time for all pupils. (This means no crisps, cereal bars, biscuits, sweets or other processed snacks and instead Fresh fruit (e.g. apple, banana, berries, grapes, orange segments)
- Fresh vegetables (e.g. carrot sticks, cucumber, cherry tomatoes, sugar snap peas)

EYFS and KS1 pupils already receive free fruit and vegetables at school, so there is no need to send snacks in from home.

If your child prefers a particular fruit or vegetable, you are welcome to send a range to share with others (please ensure these are clearly labelled and suitable for sharing)

These changes will come into effect immediately after half term

### Lunchtime Reminders

Parents are responsible for providing a packed lunch if not having school dinners.

Please remember that no nuts or nut products are allowed in any snacks or packed lunches, to keep all pupils safe.

We support parents in deciding what to put in their children's packed lunch but remind parents of the importance of being healthy and balanced.

- Please talk to your child about the importance of healthy eating and looking after our school environment.
- Double-check that any snacks sent in from home meet the updated changes

- Remind your child to put any rubbish in the bin or take it home

We appreciate your support as we work together to continue to ensure we have a healthy and clean environment for our school community.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school office.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

### An evening with Lucinda Miller

You are warmly invited to an 'Evening with Lucinda Miller', hosted by St Lawrence CEP School, on Thursday 6 November at 19:00 in the Pamoja Hall. Lucinda is a leading naturopath, child nutrition expert and bestselling author. Her talk will focus on supporting neurodivergent children through natural nutrition. Please see the attached poster for more information.

Tickets can be booked [via this link](#).





## We need your help please...



We're collecting old **Wellington boots and wet weather gear** to support Outdoor Play and Learning at our Croydon school. Many of our pupils can't afford their own waterproofs – your donations will help them stay dry, play freely, and feel included.





Please donate them by leaving them in the labelled box outside the main entrance. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

From Donna Adams (Ex-Parent at Ide Hill)