

## Headteacher Message

This week, our whole staff team came together for further training on our new behaviour policy led by Miss Johnson. It was a wonderful opportunity for everyone to develop their skills together and ensure we're all working consistently to support your children. The session was really positive, and I'm confident this will continue to strengthen the supportive and respectful environment we're building at Ide Hill.

All families should now have received their child's learning journey for this term. These documents outline what your children will be learning across different subjects, and I'd encourage you to read through them carefully. Please do ask your children lots of questions about what they're learning - your interest and engagement makes such a difference to their enthusiasm and progress. If you have any questions about what your child/ren will be doing, or if they bring home homework that you don't understand, please don't hesitate to come in and ask. We're here to support you in supporting them.

I'm delighted to share that Year 6 have been working with once again with Sevenoaks School this term on creative writing. It's brilliant to have them back in school, and they're really challenging our children to develop their writing skills further. The children are hopefully enjoying these sessions.

We've sent out our pupil survey this week, and children will be completing it over the coming weeks. This is such an important way for us to hear directly from your children about their experiences at school, and I'm looking forward to reading their responses.

In collective worship this week, we've been exploring two important themes. We've discussed how gifts don't always have to be physical things. Other ways we can give to others include our time and attention, acts of kindness and service, words of encouragement, forgiveness, patience and understanding.

We've also been thinking about how sometimes we have to wait for good things to happen, or persevere with something even when it's difficult. We reflected on different bible stories showing how others waited many years for God's promise of a child to be fulfilled. It reminds us that patience and faith can lead to wonderful outcomes, even when the wait feels long!

Next week, some of our children will be representing the school at a debating event at Sevenoaks School. This is a fantastic opportunity for them to develop their confidence and critical thinking skills. I'm really looking forward to seeing how it goes.

This week, I've been out on learning walks around the school, alongside other subject leads who have also been looking in books. I'm pleased to share some of the positive things we've seen: excellent behaviour for learning with children focused and engaged, thoughtful adaptations to support all children in accessing their

learning, polite and respectful interactions throughout the school, improved tidiness across the school environment, and children talking confidently about what they're learning. It's wonderful to see our school community thriving in so many ways.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we're helping every child at Ide Hill to flourish. Have a great weekend!

## Children's Mental Health Week 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> February

The theme for this year's Children's Mental Health Week is 'This is my Place'. That means feeling like you're part of something, such as your family, your school, your group of friends or a team. These happy moments help us feel connected, valued, and accepted. When we feel like we belong, we feel happy, safe, and ready to learn and play. It helps us grow strong in our minds and bodies, and it makes it easier to make friends, do well in school, and feel good about ourselves. During Children's Mental Health Week, we'll be talking about how we can help everyone feel like they belong. We will share 'This is my Place' so we can learn from each other what makes us feel happy. We'll learn how to be kind, include others, and make sure no one feels left out. Because everyone deserves to feel like they have a place where they are accepted, cared for, and loved!

## Come As You Are Day – 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026

As part of **Children's Mental Health Week** we are inviting children to wear an outfit which makes them feel most comfortable, confident, and like they truly belong — whether that's cosy clothes, cultural dress, favourite colours, or something totally unique. Celebrate what makes you, you! A suggested £2 donation to Place2Be charity.

## National Year of Reading

Secretary of State for Education, Bridget Phillipson MP – alongside school children, campaign ambassadors and partners - officially launched the National Year of Reading yesterday, on 13 January at the Emirates Stadium, the home of Arsenal Football Club, inspiring the nation to Go All In on their passions through reading. Whether it's football, music, baking, family-time, sci-fi, or ... anything, reading helps you get more out of the things you love.

So, if you're into football, read the match day programme, catch up on the transfer news or listen to an audio book about your favourite player. In short, if you're into it, read into it.

We are hoping to get involved in some activities across the year in school. Please take time to have a look at the website and see all the events on offer.

<https://goallin.org.uk>

### EYFS/KS1 Playground

Please could we kindly ask parents not to let children play with the playground equipment or tyres whilst waiting for siblings at pick up. Thank you!

### NHS Oral Health Team

Hello brushers!



We have composed a list of our favourite songs to brush to for you and your children.

Early Years & Key Stage 1:

<https://youtu.be/BPjcrT3ejE4?feature=shared>

<https://youtu.be/wxMrtK-kYnE?feature=shared>

<https://youtu.be/anFIODqG7UI?feature=shared>

<https://youtu.be/m-C1nrwzj-M?feature=shared>

Key Stage 2:

[https://youtu.be/O4wDITXrvrc?si=9QXCDYPIWoOi\\_8sd](https://youtu.be/O4wDITXrvrc?si=9QXCDYPIWoOi_8sd)

<https://youtu.be/gdcn9KbNTQY?si=4B56ZDACuGaJpu5>



Ide Hill Primary has been selected as one of three Community Matters causes at the Sevenoaks Waitrose. The project with the most votes receives £1,500, while the second and third receive £1,000 and £500 respectively.

Please do spread the word, and if you're shopping there, pop your green token into our box. Every token helps!

