



# IVY CHIMNEYS CHATTER



I am very pleased to announce that next week will see the launch of our breakfast and after school clubs. After a tremendous amount of work by our staff, we have managed to get this provision in place. We have greatly appreciated the positive response from parents and we look forward to welcoming the first members of the club at 7.45am on Monday! If you are interested in accessing our breakfast and after school provision, please speak with Loretta Palmer or collect a form from the office.

We continue to push ahead with our work on our six learning behaviours. This half term we will focus on 'Resilience'. This learning behaviour is represented by 'Tufty the Tortoise' and we are thankful to Amy S in Walnut Class who has drawn 'Tufty' so brilliantly. Well done Amy!



We launched another exciting initiative last Friday afternoon for parents of children in Year 5&6. I am extremely grateful to Mrs Thomson who is leading weekly pre-teach sessions straight after school to help parents gain a greater understanding of how maths is taught nowadays. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive and we look forward to welcoming more parents at the next session on Friday 30th January. Mrs Thomson promises not to put anyone on the spot!

This Friday and Saturday, the staff and I will be accompanying ten children to the BETT exhibition at the ExCeL centre in East London. This is the second year that pupils at Ivy Chimneys have been invited to the technology and education show. I know the children are really excited to be sharing their knowledge of coding using Raspberry Pi computers and the Scratch and Python programming environments.

Jonathan Furness, Head Teacher

## ASSESSMENT

In September 2014, the Government introduced a new National Curriculum and announced the removal of National Curriculum levels.

The new National Curriculum lays out objectives for the programmes of study by year groups in English, Maths and Science and in Key Stages in the foundation subjects. Teachers plan to teach the objectives set out for their year groups but may dip above or below their year group objectives if a child needs more reinforcement in an area or equally more challenge. The implication of a new Curriculum results in a new assessment system which staff began using last term.

Children in Year 1, 3, 4 and 5 are already being assessed against the new National Curriculum. Children in Year 2 and Year 6 will continue to be assessed against the old National Curriculum and therefore will continue to use the old system of levels. Our Year 2 children will then transition to the new assessment system when they enter Year 3.

In the next few weeks we will be communicating further details about the new assessment system.

## TWITTER ACCOUNTS

@IC\_EYFS @IC\_Chestnut @IC\_Birch @IC\_Elm  
@IC\_Rowan @IC\_Hornbeam @IC\_Plane @IC\_Maple  
@IC\_Beech @IC\_Walnut @IC\_Office @FOICs

## HEALTHY SNACKS

This is a gentle reminder to all parents and children to ensure that children bring in healthy snacks to eat during break time. Chocolate biscuits do not constitute a healthy snack. We strive to encourage more children to eat fruit and I need your support to ensure children bring the right snacks to school.

## HIGHLIGHTS AND HOPES

Lots of children have been busy writing their entries for the Highlights of 2014 and Hopes for 2015 writing competition. I am really looking forward to reading all of the entries. There are prizes for winning entries in each of the categories, Foundation, Year 1/2, Year 3/4 and Year 5/6. **The closing date for entries is Saturday 31st January 2014.** Please submit entries via our website.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Fri 23rd Jan - INSET Day - school closed to pupils.**  
**Fri 30th Jan - Larch Class Assembly**  
**Sat 31st Jan - Closing date for Highlights of 2014 and Hopes for 2015 writing competition.**  
**Fri 6th Feb - Beech Class Assembly**  
**Fri 13th Feb - Birch Class Assembly**  
**16th - 20th Feb - Half Term holiday**  
**Fri 27th Feb - Maple Class Assembly**

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