



IVY CHIMNEYS CHATTER



Happy New Year to you all. May I begin by thanking children and parents on behalf of the staff team for your cards, kind wishes and gifts. We very much appreciated your generosity.

During my whole school assembly last Thursday, I asked children to settle quickly and focus on learning after all the excitement at the end of term. Indeed they have, focussed, re-energised and are determined to learn as much as they can during this short half term.

I also introduced our annual Highlights of 2016 and Hopes for 2017 competition that all children can enter. Entries may be written, spoken, animated or illustrated and can be presented on A4 paper, or created digitally as an image, text or perhaps a video or audio recording. Digital entries can be uploaded on our school website. See details here: www.ivychimneys.net



This week, Miss Sigston and I met with a few students to discuss their learning. I am always so encouraged to hear that children are practicing their learning at home, committing additional time beyond the set homework demonstrating a positive attitude towards a love of learning. The children were very articulate and were able to discuss areas of learning they had grasped last term and their next steps for the coming weeks.

Information about our Spring term topics for all year groups can be found on our website. The excitement created by the students in Year 5&6 learning about Shakespeare had already led to some pupils visiting the Globe theatre in London and watching the Gnomeo and Juliet film at the weekend. Wow!

ADVERSE WEATHER

Meteorologists have forecast some colder weather over the coming days with the prospect of snow. If we are unable to make the school site safe or an insufficient number of staff are able to get to school this may cause the school to close. Clearly this is a last resort and a decision will not be taken lightly. In this situation we will endeavour to let you know as soon as possible using Twitter, the website and ParentMail. Please try to avoid telephoning the school as it is likely we will be busy making decisions and sending communications.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can now make payments online using Agora to pay for dinner money, clubs, breakfast and after school club and school trips. Parents who have registered have responded positively and the Office staff prefer it too! If you haven't registered yet, but need a helping hand, pop into the office and we will guide you through the process of getting signed up!

@IC_EYFS @IC_Chestnut @IC_Birch @IC_Elm

@IC_Rowan @IC_Hornbeam @IC_Plane @IC_Maple

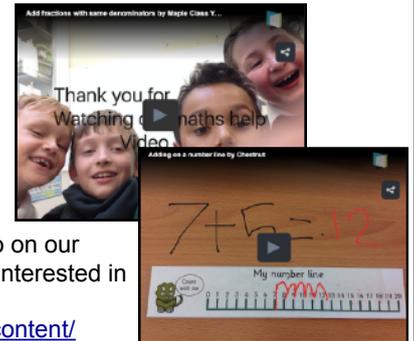
@IC_Beech @IC_Walnut @IC_Office @IC_Council @FOICs

Curriculum newsletters are here:

www.ivychimneys.net/parents/curriculum-newsletters

Preteach for Year 1&2, 3&4 and 5&6 will resume next week. An overview of when these sessions are being held, together with the topics covered will be available on our website shortly.

We recognise that not everyone is able to attend our preteach sessions, particularly for working families. We are working really hard on creating some digital resources to model methods and strategies. Naturally, we have involved our children in making these and they are also on our website. We'd be very interested in your feedback.
www.ivychimneys.net/content/maths-help-videos



Yesterday I attended a Safeguarding update training session and covered 'hot topics' such as radicalisation and extremism, online safety (e-safety) and raising awareness of mental health and wellbeing amongst primary aged pupils. Whilst Ivy Chimneys safeguarding procedures are effective, it is imperative that we all share a responsibility towards keeping children safe. I was made aware of an excellent website that explains the various social networking sites, apps and games. I'd urge you to look at this to familiarise yourself with the variety of tools children have access to on their phones and tablets. The website address is:
www.net-aware.org.uk

Jonathan Furness, Head Teacher

IMPORTANT DATES

- Fri 13th Jan** Maple Class Assembly
- Wed 18th Jan** School Nurse available for parents
- Fri 20th Jan** Rowan Class Assembly
- Fri 27th Jan** Elm Class Assembly
- Fri 3rd Feb** Ash Class Assembly
FOICs Quiz Night
- Thurs 9th Feb** Plane Class Assembly
- Fri 10th Feb** **Non pupil day. Children not in school**
- Mon 13th - 17th Feb - HALF TERM**
- Mon 20th Feb** Children return after half term

Please find 2017-2018 term dates attached.

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