



# IVY CHIMNEYS CHATTER



A very warm welcome back to all our children and parents after what I hope was a very enjoyable and restful summer break. May I begin by extending our thanks on behalf of the staff team for the cards, gifts and best wishes that we received at the end of last term. Your generosity is gratefully appreciated and these were enjoyed well into the holiday.

May I also thank you for ensuring the children returned to school yesterday well prepared and looking super smart in their full school uniforms. I particularly enjoyed hearing the hubbub of children talking excitedly as they met up with their classmates, swapping stories and holiday experiences.

I would like to welcome three new members to the Ivy Chimneys team. Mrs Moulsher joins our senior leadership team and is teaching in Year 5/6, Miss Bowers, our new Music Leader is teaching in Year 3/4 and Mrs Barham is working alongside Mrs Ives in Year 1/2. Congratulations to Mr Jones who will be leading the Year 5/6 Phase team whilst Miss Sigston is on maternity leave and best wishes to Mrs Cooper who takes on a new role as Inclusion Leader.

I am delighted to share the happy news that Miss Sigston gave birth last Thursday to Baby Cleo weighing 7lb,10oz, arriving at 7:10pm!! As our Maths Leader, Miss Sigston is still calculating the odds of that occurring! I am sure you will join me in congratulating and wishing Miss Sigston, her partner and Palmer lots of happiness together.

As is usual, you will have received a steady stream of ParentMails with important information about events and dates for the year ahead (see attached), our clubs list and class assembly calendar for the Autumn term. Please look out for these and note the term times to ensure your child is in school every day.

## PARENT VOLUNTEERS

We are always indebted to the 'army' of parent volunteers who support class teachers in hearing children read regularly. Once again we are asking for your help and hope that each class will have at least one volunteer who is able to support during one morning or afternoon session. Whether you have previously been a parent volunteer or are interested in becoming one for the first time, please complete the form on our website: <http://www.ivychimneys.net>

## DID YOU KNOW?

When you are notified that your child has been chosen for a Head Teacher Gold Award, the ideal time to make the presentation is on Friday. However, in most cases parents will only have received a day's notice. Should you need more notice, please contact the class teacher via Class Dojo/Tapestry and ask for the Gold Award to be postponed to the following week. We are very happy to do this.

@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

On Monday, an article appeared on the BBC news website asking "What do staff do during non-pupil days?" So I thought I would share what we did over our two INSET days.

Both Monday and Tuesday were exceptionally busy with presentations during the morning sessions followed by senior leadership and phase meetings in the afternoons. As well as dealing with the usual business of dates, timetables and rotas, we also renewed our annual safeguarding training and Mrs Gladstone presented on e-Safety and reviewing key principles in keeping children safe online. We are planning a workshop session for children and parents to attend. We will advise you of the date in due course.

In addition, Mrs Cooper spoke about Zones of Regulation and presented an update on our SEND provision. Whilst Mrs Cooper will continue her work as SENCO supporting SEND children and their families, in her new role she will also be overseeing attendance, punctuality and behaviour. Mrs Cooper will be the point of contact for staff to make referrals to external agencies for additional family support.

Another key aspect was to share our vision and expectations for the coming year. The current government continues to promote sport in school and the sports funding we receive has increased this year. Sport isn't just about competition and playing games, it's about developing healthy lifestyles and mindsets. We will be extending our club provision and piloting some exciting research which claims to better prepare children for learning in the classroom through daily outdoor activity, usually first thing in the morning. Watch this space for further details and the hashtag #sport4all. We will also be extending our provision for the Creative Arts, which is seen as pivotal in developing children's confidence in art, drama, dance, music, writing etc. Look out for the hashtag #creativitywins !

Finally, maintaining our strong and positive home-school partnership is key to our children's success. Look out for the hashtag #aimhigh altogether !

Jonathan Furness, Head Teacher

## IMPORTANT DATES

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 14th September | Meet the Teacher evening<br>Yr 1/2 6pm, Yr 3/4 6:30pm, Yr 5/6 7pm |
| 15th September | Elm Class Assembly  |
| 15th September | FolCS KS2 Movies and Munch  |
| 15th September | Year 5/6 Trip to Bletchley Park                                   |
| 18th September | House Captain Elections   |
| 22nd September | Walnut Class Assembly   |
| 29th September | Hornbeam Class Assembly   |
| 4th October    | Whole School Poetry Day   |

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