



Ickniel
Primary School

Thrive and achieve together

www.ickniel.cambs.sch.uk

Friday 24th January 2025

Diary Dates	
January	23 rd – Young Voices performance at O2
February	13 th – Key Stage 2 Space Workshop w/c 17 th – Half-term holiday 25 th & 27 th – Parent/Teacher Consultations

Young Voices trip

Members of the Ickniel choir had an amazing experience at the O2 in London last night. They joined with choirs from across the country to sign a range of wonderful songs together. Mrs Holt escorted the group and said that this was a marvellous event that everyone thoroughly enjoyed. Our school reporter attended the event and will give us her 'Neve's News' report next week.

Children's Mental Health Week



This year, Children's Mental Health Week is taking place from 3rd – 9th February 2025. The year the focus is '**Know Yourself, Grow Yourself**', with the aim to encourage children and young people across the UK to embrace self-awareness and explore what it means to them.

Being self-aware means getting to know and understand what we are good at, what we find difficult, our likes and dislikes, what makes us feel JOY and what may cause us SADNESS. It is also about understanding what makes us unique and our fears, hopes and dreams. As we build a sense of self, we grow in our ability to connect with others, as well as develop our skills and talents. It is with this basis we can form strong and healthy relationships, from early childhood right through to adulthood and are equipped to cope with the challenges that life brings our way.

During Children's Mental health week, we will be working with the children on 'Active Listening' where we will ask everyone to really focus on what people are saying so that everyone is really heard. We will also be talking about our emotions and how important it is to feel comfortable sharing how they are feeling.

Musician of the Month



Every Monday afternoon starts with a music assembly for the children in years 1-6. As well as singing a range of songs, we are also using some new materials called "Musician of the Month."

For January, the musician is Florence Price. We have learnt about some of her life and listened to some of her music. **She was** an American classical composer, pianist, organist and music teacher. Price is noted as the first African-American woman to be recognized as a symphonic composer, and the first to have a composition played by a major orchestra. In 2009, a substantial collection of her works and papers was found in her abandoned summer home.

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

The RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch takes place this weekend. This is the world's largest garden wildlife survey. Every year, hundreds of thousands of nature lovers take part, helping to build a picture of how garden birds are faring. They are interested in species that are in decline, and those that are thriving. Families are asked to spend an hour quietly watching the birds in their garden. Only count the ones that land and let the RSPB know your findings. For more information, click on the link below;

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>

EIFA Evening Drop in Sessions

Sam Stacey, our Education Inclusion Family Advisor is trialling some evening drop in sessions to accommodate the needs of working families. They will take place, virtually, every Wednesday evening between 6:00 -8:00pm. Slots must be booked in advance. To book, please click on the link below or scan the QR code.

<https://forms.office.com/e/Uzuq9sVQha>



Holocaust Memorial Day



Holocaust Memorial Day is a time when we seek to learn the lessons of the past and to remember those who died during World War II. Holocaust Memorial Day takes place on 27 January 2025. At 8pm on 27 January people across the nation will light candles and put them safely in their windows to:

- remember those who were murdered for who they were
- stand against prejudice and hatred today

Iconic buildings and landmarks will also light up in purple during this powerful national moment of commemoration and solidarity. This commemoration is known as 'Light up the Darkness'

National Squirrel Appreciation Day – Tuesday 21st January

There was a very special day in the diary this week with National Squirrel Appreciation Day on Tuesday 21st January. Squirrels class were very excited to hear this news and on Wednesday they

spent time learning about their namesakes, and how they can leap across a space ten times the length of their body! Squirrels love nuts and often bury them. But did you know that often they only pretend to bury them because they know they are being watched? Sometimes squirrels will pretend to bury a nut, walk away, and then come back to it numerous times before removing it and putting it somewhere else until they are sure that they are no longer being watched. What clever animals they are! Olivia popped to the office to tell me that squirrels also eat conkers and that the word for squirrels in polish is wiewiorka. Thank you, Olivia.

Parking

We have received a number of complaints from local neighbours regarding inconsiderate parking by our parents at pick up and drop off times of the day. This happens in both Lynton Way to the front of school, and in Plantation Road to the rear of school. As we are sure you can appreciate residents find it very frustrating to be unable to leave their driveways because vehicles are parked across them and are blocking them in. We understand that parents are in a rush at the beginning of the day, but please understand that our local neighbours also need to leave home to get to work themselves, and thoughtless parking is making them late. Could we please ask that you consider where you park your car at the beginning and end of the school day and do not park where you could become an obstacle to local residents. Thank you.

International Day of Education

Today is International Day of Education 2025. This was first observed in 2019 and was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly, International Education Day falls on 24 January annually. This special day is being marked across the globe with various events taking place acknowledging the part that automation and AI may play in education moving forward.

Holiday Camps

Premier

The Premier team will be running their usual holiday camps during February half term. Camps will be open from 8:45 – 4:00pm from Monday 17th – Friday 21st February. If you would like to book a place please click on the link below;

[Holiday Camps - Premier Education](#)

Cambridge City Football club

Our friends at Cambridge City Football Club are also running some half term football camps. Children will receive coaching from First Team Manager and former **Premier League** footballer, **Jamie Cureton**. Jamie will be supported by our 1st team coach, **Jim Duggan**, who boasts over 22 years of experience from leading academies. This presents a unique opportunity for young footballers to learn from two esteemed professionals, and the sessions will be the first to take place at the new stadium in Sawston. Clubs will run from 10:00 – 2:00pm from Monday 17th – Friday 21st February. More information is available on the link below;

<https://www.cambridgecityfc.com/event-details/february-half-term-camp>