



Ickniel
Primary School

Thrive and achieve together

www.ickniel.cambs.sch.uk

Friday 14th February 2025

| Diary Dates | |
|-------------|---|
| February | w/c 17 th – Half-term holiday 24 th – Children return to school 25 th & 27 th – Parent/Teacher Consultations |
| March | w/c 3 rd – National Careers Week w/c 10 th – National Science Week 6 th – World Book Day – Children will be allowed 14 th - Reception Vision Screening |

Parent/Teacher consultations

Parent/teacher consultations take place after half term on Tuesday 25th and Thursday 27th February. Ten-minute slots for you to meet your child's class teacher are available from 3:40pm until 6:30pm on either day. Appointments can be booked via your My Child At School (MCAS) account. Please let the school office know if you are experiencing problems with your MCAS account. Bookings will open at midnight on Sunday 9th February and will close at midnight on Sunday 23rd February. If you experience any issues making your booking, please contact the school office team.

Please remember to allow sufficient time between appointments if you have more than 1 teacher to see.

Science Exploration KS2

Key Stage 2 pupils had a fantastic time exploring space in the school hall this week. Education Group came in with some virtual reality headsets and there were screams of delight from the children as they found themselves visiting planets and seeing stars. James from Year 5 said "It was really cool to learn the names of all the planets. I felt like I was floating through space"



Safer Internet Day

It was Safer Internet Day on Tuesday. We have been working on a number of things related to this across school.

- Ladybirds learnt what a scam is. They discussed that not everything we see online is true and how we would feel if we saw something online that was not true. At the end, the children discussed what they would do if this happened to them.
- Hedgehogs learnt about different types of information, including personal information. They used visual cues and words to explore what is personal information and what is not. They had a discussion about why it is important to keep personal information private to protect us when we are online.
- Squirrels explored pop-ups online through story-telling. They learnt that not everything they see online is true and that sometimes, if something seems too good to be true, it probably isn't true.
- Foxes have been learning about signs of a scam for Internet Safety Day. They have defined what a scam is, looking at the acronym for SCAM. Then, they utilised this acronym when looking at examples of potential scams in small groups. Finally, they discussed who our trusted adults are if they stumble upon a potential scam as well as what they could do to remain safe.
- Badgers were learning about phishing. They explored what phishing is and what signs they can look out for. They then used what they learnt to feed our 'trustworthy trout' with safe online messages.
- Owls used all their prior knowledge to think about the best ways to protect personal information when using online profiles. As a class, they talked about how to keep themselves safe online and the different steps they can take to protect themselves from online scams.



PCSO Wiseman

We were also visited this week by our local PCSO Wiseman. He reinforced the learning about online when he met Year 5 and Year 6 and also talked to the whole school about anti-social behaviour. The children asked lots of questions about his work and experiences in the community.

EIFA Workshops

The Education Inclusion Family Advisor Team (EIFA) have launched a new range of workshops for families covering a variety of parenting and family issues. Perhaps you would benefit from support with sibling rivalry, helping your child with sleep or perhaps your child's anxieties and worries. If so then the team may be able to help. Please take a look at the poster attached to this newsletter and click on the links or the appropriate QR codes.

If you have any questions about our workshops, or the EIFA service in general, please contact earlyintervention@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



Rocksteady Concert

The hall was full of proud parents on Thursday afternoon as the Rocksteady bands performed their songs. The children had practised over many weeks and sounded marvellous. Well done everyone!

Y4 Botanic Garden trip

Year 4 had an amazing day visiting the Botanic Gardens this week. They travelled on the Citi7 bus and then took part in a 'Treasure of the Rainforest' workshop. The children learnt about the diverse rainforest habitat, where these are located and the plants that are found there. They also learnt about the history and manufacture of chocolate. Mrs Liber said the facts the children learnt about the rainforest will be very useful when the children wrote their recount of the trip later on Thursday. She said that everyone had behaved very well and enjoyed both their time at the Botanic Gardens as well as the journey on the bus.

Mindfulness workshops

Mrs Tarrant visited school on Tuesday this week to work with classes. She talked to the children about Children's Mental Health Awareness Week. The children had an opportunity to meditate and listen to classical music. In line with the theme 'Know yourself and Grow yourself' Mrs Tarrant carried out some activities where the children were able to talk about their emotions. Thank you to FIPs who have funded these sessions for all classes.



Volunteer Work

We are delighted to have forged a good relationship with Unity Campus, the new science park in Pampisford. Not only are they able to offer support to us during both Careers and Science weeks but they are also able to provide much needed practical support around school site.

During the first week of the Easter holidays, week commencing 7th April, they will be providing volunteers and contractors to work across the school site in a number of much needed areas. They are going to work in both the EYFS outdoor area as well as in the pond area. They are able to provide machinery that will make the huge task much more manageable, and this will have a huge impact on both learning areas. We are hoping that this relationship with Unity and their contractors

Countrywide will continue to grow and that they can support us with work in other areas of site at a later date.

On 9th and 10th April, they are also sending in a team of staff volunteers who are going to paint outdoor areas and do some gardening. We are hoping to be able to provide a team of parent volunteers to come in and work with the Unity volunteers, working outside of school, rubbing down benches/woodwork and repainting as well as some gardening and tidying.

It would be from 9:30am – 4:00pm on Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th April. **We would not be able to accommodate children.**

If you are able to come in and help out with this wonderful opportunity, please email Mrs Jelliman in the school office. Thank you in advance for any support you can give.



International Day of Women and girls in Science

On Wednesday of this week, it was International Day of Women and Girls in Science. This day allows us to honour women's significant achievements in science and place a much-needed focus on girls entering Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) careers. As the fastest-growing segment of jobs with employers finding it hard to find available talent, STEM needs women. There are many scientific female role models we can learn about, for example, Physicist Marie Curie became the first women to win Nobel Prize in 1903 and Ada Lovelace, who was born in 1815, is regarded as the first computer programmer long before modern computers were invented.

This special day comes along at a significant point in the school calendar with both careers and science weeks taking place just after the half-term break. Perhaps this is a great opportunity to talk to your daughters or nieces about a scientific career for the future?

World Thinking Day

World Thinking Day, formerly Thinking Day, is celebrated annually on 22 February by all Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. It is also celebrated by Scout and Guide organizations around the world. It is a day when they think about their "sisters" (and "brothers") in all the countries of the world, the meaning of Guiding, and its global impact. This year the theme digs into the values of what it's meant to be a Girl Guide or Girl Scout over the past century. If your daughter is a Rainbow, Brownie, or Girl Guide we hope that they enjoy their group events next week.



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>

I hope you all have a wonderful half-term holiday. I am planning to rest a little and read some books. I hope you all have some lovely things planned. I look forward to hearing all about what you have got up to when we return to school on Monday 24th February.