



Ickniel
Primary School

Thrive and achieve together

www.icknielprimary.org

Friday 30th January 2026

Diary Dates

February	6 th – NSPCC Number Day cake sale after school in the hall w/c 9 th – Children’s Mental Health Week 11 th & 12 th – Parent/Teacher Consultations 13 th – Rocksteady Concert (2pm) w/c 15 th – Half term holiday 23 rd – Staff Training Day (School is closed to pupils)
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NSPCC

Next Friday (6th February), we are going to participate in Number Day 2026. This day is organised for schools by the NSPCC (NSPCC stands for the **National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children**. It is the leading UK charity specializing in child protection, dedicated to preventing abuse, rebuilding children's lives, and supporting families.)

The children will enjoy fun activities with numbers during maths lessons during the day and FIPS will be organising a cake sale in the hall straight after school. Please help the children raise some money for this deserving charity by providing home-baked or shop-bought cakes, cookies, flapjacks etc. – and do come along to buy a sweet treat at the end of the day. No nuts in cakes please! Thank you.

Parent/teacher consultations

Parent/teacher consultations take place just before half term on Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th 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 do not have or are experiencing problems with your MCAS account. Bookings are open until midnight on Sunday 8th 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.

Y3 Scott Polar



Year 3 had a wonderful trip to The Scott Polar Museum and The Fitzwilliam Museum this week. At the Scott Polar Museum, the children impressed the museum guide with their Geography knowledge of Antarctica. The children enjoyed looking at the artifacts and answering questions. They then walked to the Fitzwilliam museum and were very excited to explore the armour, ceramics and ancient Greece areas before lunch. The children were extremely well behaved during the day and impressed the bus driver with their polite manners. Well done Year 3!

Arts Awards



We are delighted to share some fantastic news from our creative curriculum! A huge congratulations to 99 Key Stage 2 children who have successfully achieved their Arts Award Discovery certificate. This nationally recognised award celebrates children's creativity, enthusiasm, and engagement with the arts. After their amazing experience participating in 'The Tin Forest' at Stapleford Granary, the children shared what they discovered and reflected on their creative experiences — all with great confidence and pride.

Well done to all our young artists for this brilliant achievement!

Attendance

High attendance at school is important for children to do well in their learning. Children need to be on time and here every day. We need you to work with us to help make that happen. We expect children to be at school unless there is an unavoidable or exceptional reason, or unless there is a health problem that happens for a long time and means they cannot come. Children from Reception to Year 6 are all part of this policy.

We have this policy so we can try to:

- Support children and their parents/carers to be at school every day and on time.
- Make sure all children can access school.
- Make sure that parents/carers know about the laws to do with attendance.

At school, we know that attendance is important and we will do all we can to support parents/carers to get children into school every day.

As parents, we ask you to:

- Make sure your child comes to school. Please understand that you have a legal responsibility to make this happen

- Make sure your child is on time for school with all the things they need in time for the register. If your child is late, it might be marked as an 'unauthorised' absence.
- Tell school if your child has a medical appointment during the school day. We would like appointments to be after school if possible please. We might ask to see the text message, email or appointment card just to check that the appointment is happening.
- Make sure you contact school before 9:15am if your child cannot attend school, telling us the reason.
- Tell school if your child is unhappy coming to school, so that we can help you and your child solve the problem that is making them unhappy.
- Fill out the Term time leave request form if you need to take your child out of school during term time. We will not authorise the absence unless it is for an exceptional reason. This means it is unavoidable and really important. If you take your child out of school even when school have said it will be unauthorised, you might be given either a penalty notice (which is a fine you have to pay) or a prosecution.
- If you wish to take your child out of school for a medical appointment, please complete a green medical appointment notification form stating the period of absence and reason. We ask that where possible, appointments are booked for times outside of school hours. If this is not possible, please keep the time out of school to as short a time as possible.
- We know that mornings can be challenging for many children and their families, but arriving on time is key to supporting positive attitudes to attendance. Registration closes at 9:00am and learning starts promptly. Late arrivals disrupt lessons and can be upsetting for many children, including the late arrival. If you are experiencing such issues, please talk to us to see if there are ways in which we can support you.

Time to Talk Day

Time to Talk Day is the nation's biggest mental health conversation. It's a day for all of us to come together to talk, listen and change lives. This year's event is on Thursday, 5 February, with the aim of encouraging friends, families, communities, and workplaces to have a conversation about mental health.



Talking openly and honestly can be the first step towards better mental health for everyone. It can even save lives. Talking can reduce stigma and help people feel comfortable enough to seek help when they need it. The power of being able to talk about your own experiences and turn them into something positive is huge.

From sharing a post on social media using #TimeToTalk to organising an activity in your workplace or simply checking in with a friend or family member. There are lots of ways to get involved this Time to Talk Day.

Here are some ideas to get started.

- Text or call a friend to ask how they're doing.
- Go for a walk and talk with a neighbour.

- Invite a friend for a cup of tea and a chat

You're not only helping yourself and the people around you in that initial conversation but you're also helping to break down barriers so other people feel more comfortable talking about their mental health.

For further information, please visit www.mind.org.uk/get-involved/time-to-talk-

National Careers Week

National Careers week takes place this year during week commencing 2nd March. We will be welcoming a range of visitors to school to share their career choices, how they got to where they are and what they enjoy, or maybe dislike, most about their work.

Perhaps you have a job that you feel might be interesting to the children and could offer some time to us to share aspects of your role? If you do, please email Mrs Jelliman in the school office so that we can discuss what you can offer and build you into our schedule.

Thank you.

National Science week

National Science week also takes place in March – this time from 6th – 15th. We have a wonderful group of scientific parents who are coming together to plan some sessions to take place in school. If you are interested in joining this group of parents to help organise experiments for this exciting week, please contact Caroline, mother of Pietro and Marco (KS1) They are preparing some STEM activities but are open to any ideas for new experiences. They also need volunteers to come to school and assist on the day.

Please email Caroline on carolinemarie.gallati@gmail.com

Thank you to all of you for your support with this.