



Ickniel
Primary School

Thrive and achieve together

www.icknielprimary.org

Friday 6th February 2026

Diary Dates	
February	w/c 9 th – Children’s Mental Health Week 11 th & 12 th – Parent/Teacher Consultations w/c 15 th – Half term holiday 23 rd – Staff Training Day (School closed to pupils)
March	2 nd – National Careers Week 5 th – World Book Day 9 th – National Science Week 25 th – Y1/Y2/Y3 visit to Stapleford Granary 27 th – Last Day of Spring Term
April	13 th – Pupils return to school for Summer term



NSPCC

We have had a super time in school today playing around with numbers as it has been the NSPCC Number Day 2026. The NSPCC is the leading UK charity specializing in child protection, dedicated to preventing abuse, rebuilding children's lives, and supporting families.

Children in all classes have been enjoying some maths activities today. Year 2 found lots of ways to buy different sweets (real sweets today!). Year 5 completed some active maths in the hall, finding matching times tables dominoes until they were in a long line!

Thank you for all the cake donations and support today.

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.

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.

Safer Internet Day



This year, we will be taking part in Safer Internet Day, led by the UK Safer Internet Centre. Children across the school will take part in age-appropriate activities and discussions to help them understand how to stay safe online, make positive choices, and know who to talk to if something online makes them feel worried or unsure. This year's theme, "Smart tech, safe choices – exploring the safe and responsible use of AI," will help children learn about technologies such as voice assistants and chatbots, and how to use them safely, responsibly and respectfully.

Childrens Mental Health Week



Next week is Children's Mental Health Week 2026. This year's theme is 'This is My Place'. We know that our sense of belonging as individuals, in our friendships, in school, and in communities plays a vital role in our mental health and wellbeing. To know our place and really feel part of our environment is a basic human need. It can have powerful and long-lasting impacts in lots of areas of our lives, including our physical and mental health, education, employment and relationships. When we feel that we belong, it empowers us to contribute to the world and make a real difference.

This year, we will focus on our school community continuing to be an inclusive and nurturing environment, where pupils feel they belong and can say, "This is My Place". Within class, we will be exploring wonderful activities related to this during our usual PSHE lessons.

Royal Ballet live ballet

Year 4 particularly enjoyed watching extracts from the Royal Ballet dances and encouraged the children to create movements, such as balancing in pairs. There was an amazing opportunity for the children to learn about, for some children this was their first time watching a professional ballet performance.

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.

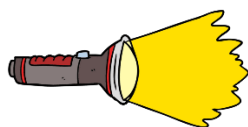
Perhaps you have a job that you feel might be interesting to the children and could offer some time to us to share aspects of your role? If you do, please email Mrs Jelliman in the school office so that we can discuss what you can offer and build you into our schedule. Thank you.

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.



Twilight at the Museums

Explore Cambridge museums after hours this February half term. Museums across the city will be opening their doors and turning the lights down low for a fun-filled evening of torchlit trails, hands-on activities, performances, crafts, storytelling, and more.

The majority of Twilight events will take place on Wednesday 18 February, the closing day of Cambridge Arts Festival. Some events will need to be pre-booked in advance, while others you can drop into on the night. Most events are free and many are within easy walking distance, meaning you can fill your evening with activities. Keep an eye out for friendly welcome crew staff to get directions, pick up a sticker and take a family photo with our selfie signs.

Why not try;

- Lantern making workshop at The Botanical Gardens 17th – 19th February from 1:00 – 4:00pm. Make and decorate a little lantern in the Botanic Garden. Take it home with you and light up your home. This event is free but must be booked in advance. Suitable for ages four to 10.
- Family Day at The Fitzwilliam Museum -18th February from 1:00 – 4:00pm. The programme for the afternoon is:
 - Starry Night Sky in Gallery 7 - Add shine to the night sky by making stars and other celestial objects in this collaborative piece. Recommended ages 5 to 10.
 - Mini Book Making in Gallery 27 - What happened since the Sun set for the last time on Ancient Egypt? Find out by making up your own stories and making them part of a mini book. Recommended ages 4 to 10.
 - Loose Parts Play in Gallery 3 - Bring your baby or toddler to have fun playing with textures, colours, and sounds. Recommended ages 0 to 4.
 - Pop-Up Library in Gallery 28 - A calmer space to enjoy books and stories snuggled up on a cushion. Suitable for all ages
 - Self-led activities at the Courtyard Entrance
 - Self-led drawing activities, story starters and loose parts play bags will be available to collect during opening hours from the Family Trolley, available in the main Courtyard area opposite the cafe benches. Suitable for all ages
- Twilight at The Whipple Museum – 18th February 4:30 – 7:30pm - Explore the galleries of the Whipple Museum with your torch and find out more about the history of science. Discover the solar system, follow the family trail and experiment with light and shadows. This is a free drop-in event – no booking required.