

Ifield School's Newsletter

Maddie Arnold-Jones, Headteacher



December 2022

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Dear Ifield Families,

Happy New Year! I hope you have had a truly magical Christmas filled with love and laughter with family and friends. It has been wonderful to see our pupils return to school this term and ready to engage and learn as we embark on the new year.

As 2022 has now come to a close, like many, I find myself reflecting on another year that has flown by, including its own many successes.

At the start of the year, we continued to work virtually and in smaller groups for assemblies, lunchtimes, events and meetings. I vividly remember the smiles on faces and the excitement I most certainly felt when whole school assemblies recommenced and our Ifield families were able to enjoy truly special moments together again in over two years since the pandemic began.

It is hard to capture all of the events of the past year, as there have been so many magnificent moments from our late Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, Sports Day events and Christmas productions. I would however, like to thank our PTFA for planning and preparing Ifield's Christmas Market, bringing the Christmas festivities to Ifield.

Throughout 2022, pupils excelled themselves and I am immensely proud of the pupils and all that they have achieved. You can share in some of these celebrations throughout December's newsletter and find much more on the school's website.

I am very privileged to work alongside a team of incredibly passionate and dedicated staff and the impact of what can be achieved through working together is always evident at Ifield.

I would like to thank you all, pupils, staff, Governors, families and friends of Ifield School for your continued support throughout 2022.

I very much look forward to the year ahead and what exciting opportunities are in store for everyone at Ifield School.

Warm wishes,

Maddie Arnold-Jones



Mrs Carole Rough, Director of Finance and Resources retired on 31st December 2022 after 20 years and 10 months devoted service at Ifield School. Carole has been an instrumental member of the Ifield family and an integral member of the leadership team. Carole's expertise and knowledge of Ifield throughout the years will be deeply missed. On behalf of pupils, staff and Governors, we wish Carole good health and much happiness throughout her retirement.



Mr Elliot Stubbles, Class Teacher and Key Stage 1 Lead resigned from his position following a successful promotion to a school much closer to home. Elliot has been a highly valued member of the school community throughout his seven years at Ifield School. Elliot has supported many pupils and mentored a number of staff throughout his career at Ifield School and I know he will be very much missed by pupils and colleagues alike.

School Council

During term 2, the newly elected School Council representatives met for the first time. As well as introducing themselves, each School Council representative was given the task of finding out from their class what they thought works well at Ifield and we could do even better. The responses included that everybody is kind at Ifield, that there are lots of different ways to learn things and that staff are always helpful. It would however be even better if we could have some new lunches on the menu, have more games to play when it is raining and participate in more competitions. In response, the school organised a competition for pupils to add their own meals to the lunch menu and a request was made for donations to classes for new puzzles and games. The results of the competition will be shared shortly and new games and puzzles have been distributed to classes. If you have any more donations, then please send them for the attention of Sue Mason, Assistant Headteacher for Secondary.

Careers and Enterprise

As part of the Harvest Festival celebrations at Ifield, we received a generous number of donations and with the support of some of our Key Stage 4 students, the food items were transported to our local food bank. This fantastic opportunity allowed our students to meet the hardworking volunteers and see how the donations given kindly by those in our school community are used to provide emergency food for people in crisis. We were proud of the maturity shown by the students and would like to thank everyone again who donated for this worthwhile cause.

Image Theatre Company Visit

Image Musical Theatre company visited Ifield school on 21st November 2022 to present 'The Sword In The Stone'. This was an interactive performance that involved eight pupils and a number of staff across Key Stage 2, 3 and 4. Pupils took on roles in the performance following a short rehearsal, and a larger group learnt songs within the production which they could then sing along to during the show. All pupils were engaged in the whole process and participated to an extremely high level. Image Musical Theatre company were very impressed with the pupils and said: 'they were a delight to work with'. Congratulations to all involved!



Meet our Kitchen Team

Our amazing kitchen team, Mandy, Sarah, Anna and Lisa worked extra hard last term so that pupils and staff enjoyed a lovely Christmas dinner together in the main hall. There were crackers, music and lots of singing.
Thank you very much to Mandy and her team for all their hard work.



PRIDE Awards

At the beginning of the academic year, all classes were given jars and tokens so that pupils positive behaviours can be acknowledged. Some classes have customised their jars so that the teams are easily recognisable. Tokens have also been given to other teams including the site team, admin team and IT team so that all Ifield staff can reward pupils for their positive behaviour displayed towards the PRIDE Awards which are:

Personal Excellence
Respect and Friendship
Inspiration
Determination and Courage
Equality

The House Teams are:

Red- Tigers
Blue- Dolphins
White – Eagle

At the end of each week, the house points earned by primary and secondary pupils are combined. The winning team with the highest number of house points is celebrated during the achievement assembly and the counters are distributed into the cylinders to show which team is winning. Individual certificates are also given to celebrate specific achievements.

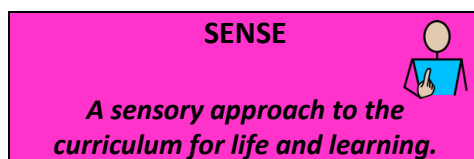
Although PRIDE is new to many members of staff, there is evidence of positive behaviours being rewarded, especially in Key Stage 2, and the pupils look forward to knowing which team has won each week.



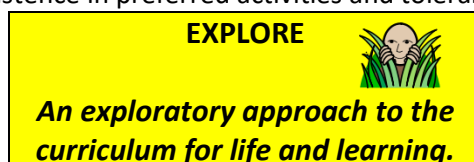
Curriculum Pathways

This year at Ifield, we are continuing to develop the support that each pupil receives in line with their learning needs. We have developed unique Pathways for teaching and learning, which will be assigned to pupils after their Reception year and will be continually reviewed throughout their academic career.

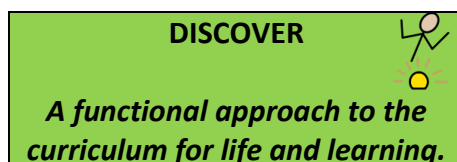
The four Pathways are explained below:



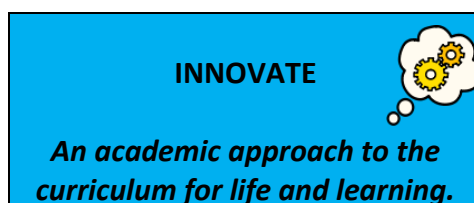
Pupils within the Sense pathway are those with the most complex needs and are at the earliest stage of communicating their needs to others. They are offered a rich curriculum based on sensory experiences which focus on providing opportunities to develop independent interactions. Sense pupils are learning to build meaningful relationships with others and influence their environment. They are developing strength and mobility to explore their environment through personalised activities. These pupils are beginning to anticipate everyday routines and engage with a variety of people in a wide range of contexts. Sense pupils are supported to realise cause and effect, with their communication choices respected by staff whilst also working towards persistence in preferred activities and tolerance for non-preferred.



Pupils within the Explore pathway are those that benefit from a highly structured environment. Pupils will have the opportunity to understand the curriculum through exploration, child-initiated learning and community involvement. There will be opportunities for class-based learning as well as developing communication and interaction skills. These pupils will have the opportunity to access the wider curriculum through cross-curricular activities. Pupils will have an opportunity to work 1:1, as well as in small groups with highly motivating resources to engage in activities that build relationships with other and create communication opportunities. In addition to adult directed learning, pupils have lots of opportunities to explore their own interests and the environment with additional adult scaffolds to promote pupil engagement.



Pupils within the Discover pathway are those who require a curriculum that has a high emphasis on functional learning, promoting independence and increasing confidence. This flexible curriculum allows pupils an opportunity to engage in learning through their individual interests, as well as first-hand experiences in the classroom and in the community so that learning is meaningful and purposeful. This motivational approach helps to build their social skills and communication with others, which allows them to develop functional language and a level of independence which will allow them to contribute actively to society.



The Innovate pathway is an academic curriculum for life and learning with resources, prompts and manipulatives acting as scaffolds. This pathway will cater for pupils who require a curriculum that is based upon access to a revised National Curriculum. Pupils will work within a safe and stimulating environment where they will develop a positive attitude towards learning and resilience so that they are able to challenge themselves to know more, do more and remember more. At Key Stage four and five, there will also be the opportunities to develop the skills and understanding which will enable pupils to move into paid employment having had opportunities to pursue meaningful accreditations and careers-based experience.

Each family will receive a letter documenting the Pathway their child has been allocated in term 3. You will continue be able to discuss the progress of your child at all the opportunities open to parents and carers including, but not exclusively parent evenings, Annual Review meetings and via your child's home/school journal.