

# Ifield School's Newsletter

Maddie Arnold-Jones, Headteacher



January 2023

For more news and information please visit our website: [www.ifield.kent.sch.uk](http://www.ifield.kent.sch.uk)

Dear Ifield Families,

Welcome to January's newsletter addition, as we approach almost halfway through the academic year. Pupils continue to be our inspiration each day and amaze staff with their determination, resilience and hard work.

Since last term, we have been fortunate to welcome and work alongside a range of visitors. These have included, Jaws N' Claws and Violin and Cello workshops. Pupils have thoroughly enjoyed these visits and benefitted from the memorable learning experiences.

Other visits have included, Ifield's first Challenge Partners Quality Assurance Review that took place in November 2022. You can read the full report by clicking on the link below:

## [Challenge Partners Quality Assurance Review – 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022](#)

You will see from the report the key areas of focus were:

- Leadership at all Levels
- Quality of Provision and Outcomes
- Quality of Provision and Outcomes for Disadvantaged Pupils and Pupils with Additional Needs

The second visit welcomed leaders from two other special schools which was facilitated by Dr Calvin Pike. This visit specifically focused on maths and personal development opportunities that are delivered throughout the curriculum at Ifield. The aim of the visit was to recognise and celebrate what is going well, whilst providing opportunity to collaboratively identify what could be even better. You can read the full report by clicking on the link below:

## [Triad Partnership Development Visit – 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023](#)

The two external reviews enabled our visitors to work collaboratively with teaching staff in order to continue our commitment to further develop the quality of education on offer at Ifield School.

A key success that certainly shines throughout our school community every day and was highlighted by the external reviewers is that there are high quality relationships at all levels and a strong sense of belonging.

On 24<sup>th</sup> January, Ifield received a visit from The Education People to review our school's safeguarding procedures. The report is currently being finalised and key highlights will be shared in February's newsletter addition.

I hope to see as many families as possible at our Family Disco this coming Friday. Please see page 4 of this newsletter for further details.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Maddie Arnold-Jones

## Welcome to Suzanne Hayward – Ifield's newly appointed Director of Finance and Resources



I started as Director of Finance and Resources at Ifield School in January 2023. I have worked within various school sectors since 2003 and I am surprised that this is my 20<sup>th</sup> year working in education, time flies when you are having fun! Most recently I have been working in the academy sector as Business Manager and Chief Financial Officer. My qualifications include a BA (Hons) Degree in School Business Leadership and Level 7 BTEC advanced professional qualification in School Financial and Operational Leadership. I am excited to be working here at Ifield School and look forward to being part of a team that make such a huge difference to the pupils and young people at Ifield School.

## Hazel Class Cyclopark Visit



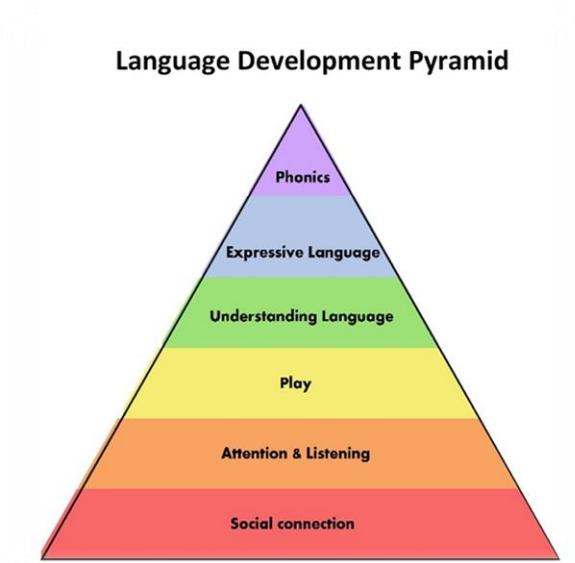
Hazel Class were invited to participate in four cycling sessions at the Cyclopark in Gravesend. The balance and two-wheeled bicycles, tricycles, side-by-side tandems and go-carts were supplied by the venue. Our instructor encouraged all of the pupils to try out different types of bikes to find out which ones pupils were comfortable riding. He soon got us trying more challenging bikes and some of our pupils learnt how to ride a two wheeled bike independently!

The pupils gained a huge amount from the four sessions. Their fears and frustration were transformed to courage, confidence and pride. Pupils with physical and coordination difficulties were easily accommodated at the Cyclopark through a range of vehicles including electric powered tricycles and manual side-by-side tandems.

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and were very eager to attend the following week. Our pupils with communication difficulties were inspired to initiate interactions with both peers and adults, whilst wearing huge smiles and giving great eye contact. Hazel Class are disappointed that our sessions have come to an end and have requested further sessions. Some pupils even want to visit the Cyclopark with their families and friends. The sessions are inspiring some of our families to purchase their own bicycles so they can have some fun and exercise together.



# Communication and Phonics



Many pupils are being supported to develop the Foundations for Literacy. The aim is to build on their early communication skills which are supported using a range of different approaches including, Intensive Interaction, Attention Autism and Picture Exchange Communication System.

It is important that pupils embed and develop their early communication and language skills before they are able to access systematic synthetic phonics teaching.

At Ifield, we follow the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds (Revised) systematic synthetics phonics programme, which provides a consistent approach to teaching phonics across the school.

Little Wandle develops writing skills alongside reading skills. Initially pupils, will learn how to read and write words. When pupils are more proficient, they will read and write sentences.

During term 3, our phonics teaching will be enhanced with Big Cat phonic reading books. The reading books complement the Little Wandle programme and provide additional opportunities for pupils to practise their segmenting and blending skills as well as develop their reading fluency and comprehension skills.

## **How can I support my child at home?**

You can access a range of information to support your child at home with phonics by clicking on the following link: <https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

Please note: At Ifield School, we teach phonics to our pupils when they are ready. Therefore, pupils may be above the age for the Reception or Year 1 phonics programme, although learning the same content. Please ask your child's class teacher where they have been placed on the programme, so that you can support accordingly.



## Save The Date

