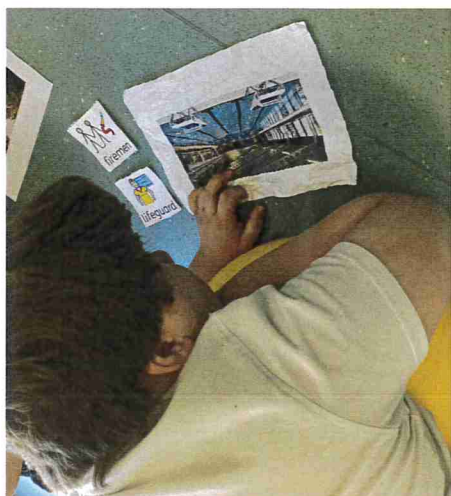
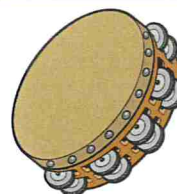




# NEWSLETTER

## Friday 25th April 2025

# WEEKLY CLASS FOCUS



Last half term the Tambourine class topic was 'The Great Fire of London'. In Literacy they learnt the facts of what happened during the event, who started the fire, where it started, why it spread and how long it lasted. The children were supported using ALD boards, signing or words to express what happened. They also enjoyed singing and signing to a song all about it.



In Art they used a different medium each week to make fires and silhouettes of houses. They enjoyed using: crayons, pencils, pens, charcoal and oil pastels. They learnt how to make different marks such as dots, lines, hatching and cross hatching.

In Numeracy the focus was number, understanding how many each number is through Numicon and weekly lessons in the sensory garden using natural resources.

In RSHE the topic was keeping safe. The children looked at situations and sorted them into safe and unsafe. They talked about who can help them to stay safe in different situations e.g. lifeguard at the swimming pool and firefighters when there is a fire. The children's favourite lesson was learning how to ask for help, a locked box with treats inside was excellent motivation to use an ALD board or words to ask for help to open it!

It was also a busy half term with external visits from Zoo Lab, the fire service and Kin Ball; all of which they enjoyed.



## MIGHTY MERCURY HOUSE TRIP Cholderton Rare Breeds Farm



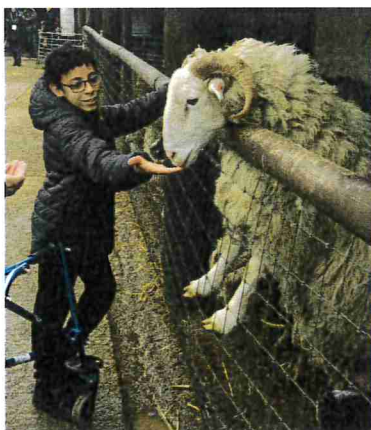
The re-scheduled Mercury house trip to Cholderton Rare Breeds Farm finally took place on Wednesday 23rd April.

Supported by an amazing and hard working group of LSAs and teachers, pupils from 4 to 19 years old accessed this unique experience in lots of different and amazing ways.

Some enjoyed feeding the animals. Some enjoyed stroking the animals. Some enjoyed watching how differently the animals moved and found this hilarious! Some enjoyed the bumpy tracks as they travelled in their wheelchairs and buggies. Some loved the soft play area, either by themselves or with friends from their own and other classes. Some loved the trampolines (a lot!) Some loved having a chat on the minibus. Some enjoyed a bit of peace and quiet away from the animals as this wasn't quite their thing. Some loved it so much they did not want to leave!

A big thanks to the parents who prepared their children so well for the day and to the staff who worked hard to support them. I wonder where the Mighty Mercury House will go for their next exciting adventure???

Paul Hoggett (Mercury House Leader)





## CLASS STAFF CHANGES

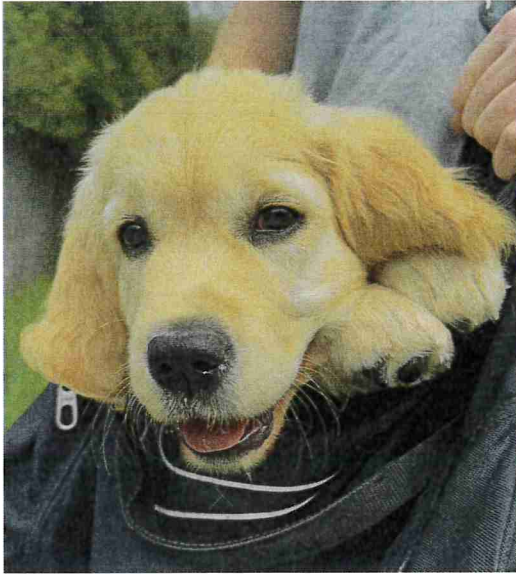
We are pleased to inform you that Laura Searle, who taught part-time in Triangle class with Lucy Stickland, has taken up the role of full-time teacher in our Trumpet class. Laura already knows all the students in Trumpet and had a changeover period in the class prior to the spring break. We wish her well in her new role.



In the meantime Sandy Evans, who many of you will know from all her years here as a teacher and Assistant Headteacher, has kindly agreed to take over Laura's previous responsibilities in Triangle class for a period of time.



## AND JUST BECAUSE.....Everyone loves a puppy photo



Say “hello” to Cheddar—a new member of the Ickniel team. Cheddar, a 10-week-old golden retriever puppy, is learning to be an assistance dog with training from the Helpful Hounds organisation.

Cheddar is starting off based entirely in Chimes class, learning the ropes of life at Ickniel and once she is fully qualified, will have her own timetable of sessions with students who would benefit from time with her. Cheddar will be trained up to support with specific tasks that can help including deep pressure therapy (sitting on laps for calming cuddles) and teaching how to take care of an animal, e.g how to brush her and play with her.




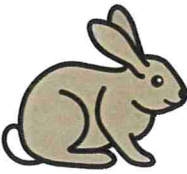
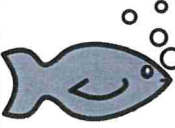
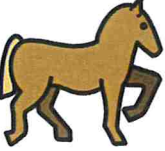
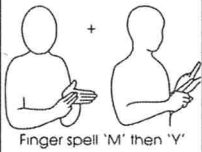
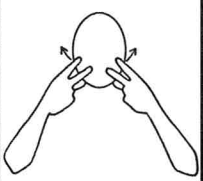




Chimes class teacher, Cerys, is the proud owner of little Cheddar and she will be putting in lots of hours outside the school day to train Cheddar and work with Helpful Hounds to be a real asset to our school. She is already getting on very well settling for cuddles with Missy, keeping Olly giggling during standing and physio time and capturing the attention of Phoebe and Delilah who are doing amazing eye tracking of her. Abel is enjoying Cheddar sniffles and cuddles during physio too.

Cheddar does have her own Instagram if you are interested in following her training journey and general life updates!  
[@cheddarthehelpfulhound](https://www.instagram.com/cheddarthehelpfulhound)



# SIGNS AND SYMBOLS OF THE WEEK



					
 Finger spell 'M' then 'Y'					
May	cat	dog	rabbit	fish	horse

## DIARY DATES — SUMMER TERM (1) 2025

### MAY

- 7th Yrs 10 & 11 FE Information Evening (*rearranged date*)
- 12th Air Ambulance visit to FE
- 13th Sports Morning—Charlton Running Track
- 14th Beaulieu Motor Museum trip (Cello)
- 16th Beaulieu Motor Museum trip (Banjo & Trumpet)
- 20th Earth House Trip
- 20th Full Governors' Meeting (4pm)

**26th-30th Summer Half Term**

### JUNE

- 3rd Venus House Trip
- 10th QE2 trip (day one)
- 24th QE2 trip (day two)
- 27th Summer Fete

### JULY

- 8th QE2 trip (day three)
- 8th Governors' Curriculum Meeting
- 10th INSET DAY—WHOLE SCHOOL**
- 11th INSET DAY—FE ONLY**
- 11th FE Prom—evening
- 15th Full Governors Meeting (4pm)
- 18th End of Year Celebration Assembly afternoon
- 22nd LAST DAY OF SUMMER TERM**



## SUPERSTAR OF THE WEEK

The following students have been awarded the Class Star of the Week Award

Chimes	- Delilah Mai
Drum	- Lincoln
Maracas	- Matthew
Tambourine	- Freya
Triangle	- Akosua
Trumpet	- Gus
Oboe	- Kieran
Banjo	- Chloe
Cello	- Ruby



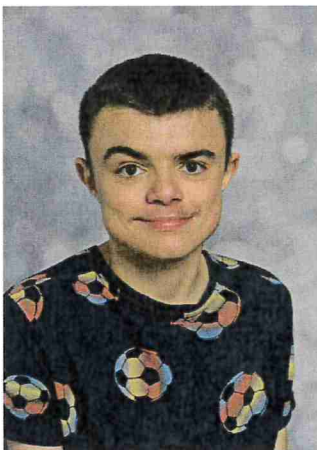
The School Superstar of the Week is **CHLOE!!!**

Chloe has transitioned brilliantly from Oboe to Banjo class and made lots of new friends who she likes to stand and wait for in the mornings. She is very independent with a bit of sass thrown in—she knows her own mind and likes the word “no!” Chloe can also be shy with a cheeky twist. Chloe enjoys cooking, art, swimming and tidying up the resources in the classroom. She also can’t resist a game of Tag during playtime.

## FE PPICC CHAMPIONS

*(Personal, Physical, Independence, Cognitive, Communication)*

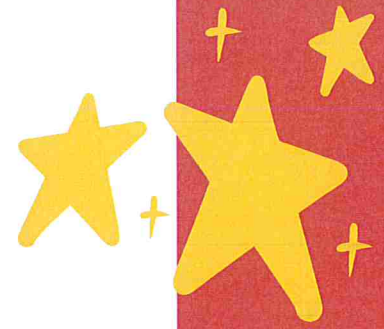
CHAMPIONS 



Tim and Chloe



## “THE PLAY’S THE THING”



Hamlet  
by Icknield School  
at The Lights, 18th March 2025  
appraised by Rachael Walsh

It is my great pleasure to congratulate you, Icknield School, on your brilliant performance of Hamlet as part of Shakespeare Schools Festival this spring. It was a joy to watch you shine on your performance night, and I'd like to spend some time now highlighting all the aspects of your production that I loved the most.

I absolutely loved the way you injected some humour into this tragedy! From the narrator's hilarious commentary on the situation, to the previous king's various belongings being passed onto Claudius, to Horatio's brilliant asides, you really found every opportunity to find moments of lightness and joy within this tragic tale. This made it a really rich and engaging piece for us to watch and really engaged your audience.

I thought you had such a strong opening with the use of the two versions of 'White Wedding' to set up the world. There was such a clear contrast between the somber funeral for the previous king to the sudden flurry of activity and celebration of Gertrude and Claudius' wedding. It immediately set up the story for us and gave us an insight into why Hamlet goes through so much distress during the play. I thought the use of Old Hamlet as narrator was a brilliant choice as well to support our understanding as an audience.

The use of ensemble was excellent - I thought having everyone onstage and responding to the action was a really clever way of showing us different ideas. From the ensemble being voices in Hamlet's head helping him decide whether he should kill Claudius or not, to wedding and party guests, to physicalising the disapproval of Polonius, they provided so much storytelling support and made it the story so easy for us to follow. You really brought the world alive and 'reimagined your company' in an incredibly effective way!

This was a marvellously musical and visually bold Hamlet from a creative and collaborative cast.

We are in awe of all your passion, hard work and creativity! What you have accomplished is something truly special, and we are already looking forward to reimagining Shakespeare with Icknield School again next year.

ICKNIELD SCHOOL

**“A MARVELLOUSLY MUSICAL AND VISUALLY  
BOLD HAMLET FROM A CREATIVE AND  
COLLABORATIVE CAST.”**