

Caroline's Festive Wishes

I cannot believe that we are celebrating our 5th Festive Season at ISP School, Battle.

Since September so much has occurred from our OFSTED inspection at the end of September with comments that made my heart sing:

"The school's work to promote pupils' personal development is a clear strength. It underpins all aspects of school life. In particular it helps to build pupils' resilience, while ensuring they become caring, compassionate citizens. Pupils appreciate staff genuinely knowing and understanding them as individuals. The school provides an extensive range of activities that helps to develop pupils' interests, resilience, confidence and independence...Classrooms are calm places, where pupils can concentrate on their learning. Pupils value the positive learning environment that exists at school. Staff are extremely well trained and highly consistent in their approaches to managing behaviour. Pupils appreciate this consistency. This gives pupils a genuine feeling of self-worth that they are proud to share with visitors. Due to the high quality of provision, parents and carers are understandably very positive about how well the school is led and managed..."

We have enjoyed our Build a Bike Project where children were given the opportunity to design and build their own bicycles which led to receiving AQA accreditations.

Children have been completing mock exams alongside college applications too.

We have had groups of children accessing off site PE at 1066, Upgrade and Falaise Gym.

Watermill Wolves have had pups and will be stars of the show at our Christmas Festival.

We have inducted 15 new children, said goodbyes to some adults: Candy our SENDCo who has a position far nearer to home, Jade Shaw whose baby is due on 11 December and Chloe Shaw whose baby is due at end of December. We have also said goodbye to Emily Robinson although hope we may say hello in the future. As you can see there have been a lot of changes but the children are beginning to settle again.

I would like to introduce our new SENDCo Jemma Langley who will be working alongside myself, Amelia and Jade as part of our leadership team.

hope you all have a peaceful and restful festive break and look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Best wishes,

Caroline Belchem Head Teacher



Year 11 and 12 Mock Exams

Once again it was wonderful to be able to offer the children the full experience of taking part in 'formal' examination conditions during term 2 with the first round of mock exams.

The majority of children worked really hard and behaved in a responsible and mature manner. We plan to hold another set of mocks prior to the actual exams for the Year 11's, in March and then a set of mock exams for those in Year 10 at the end of the year. Well done to everyone who took part in the mocks which included GCSE Maths, Biology, English Language, Chemistry, Physics, Food Technology, Computer Science, Psychology and History, as well as Cambridge Nationals in Health & Social Care and Child Care. A real reflection of the wide range of options available in KS4.

A massive thank you to all the adults who were involved in supporting the children - whether it be invigilating, covering adults who were invigilating, giving pep talks or, just ensuring that their class walked past the exams area quietly. And thank you to the children who had to cope with changes in teachers and PEGS whilst the mocks were running. Thank you all!

Halloween!

Celebrations of Halloween gave our children a variety of spooktacular activities; fancy dress, pumpkins, cooking and crafts. Children and staff morphed into their creepiest costumes displaying creativity and fun.

Pumpkins were carved with gruesome faces and placed on display before children took them home to enjoy over half term. Those left behind did not go to waste and were placed in our forest school for our wildlife to enjoy.



















Horse Riding



This term we have been able to secure more spaces for the students to access riding.

It is not always about the skills needed for riding quite often the children absorb the environment enabling them to relax and self regulate just being with a horse or even just the calming environment. There have been 5 more students start riding and they are loving every minute. We also approached a different riding school for a child to continue their learning at a place they already visit.

At ISP we like to try and accommodate every child's individual needs and by doing this we have some very happy children enjoying things they love doing.

KS3 Landbased

Although the weather has not been in our favour and I think we have started our own Bog Garden as opposed to a vegetable and flower garden. However, when we have been able to get out, we have tended our strawberry patch which is struggling but still surviving,

We have turned over the soil in both our poly tunnel and the 3 beds outside ready for the fertiliser supplements and then in the new year to start planting some fruit & veg and get to work on our wildflower patch.











Therapeutic Salon

Since the installation of the salon in school, children are not only utilising the space for BTEC Hair and Beauty but also as a place of refuge.

Children can have their hair washed, styled and on some occasions dyed to provide care and comfort to

Children are also able to provide their own self-care within the space and given the chance to talk, process and repair their emotions.









ASDAN Transition Challenge KS4 Maths

Since September we have focused on Presenting Data and Shape and Space to link up with Entry Level maths topics.

Together the class have collected specific data regarding appearance: we looked at our differences regarding height, hair colour, eye colour and shoe size. This data was then used to be presented in different ways, such as tally, bar and pie charts and we learnt how to label them correctly, so it was clear to see what they were showing. The students also took the Shape and Space topic as inspiration to create Halloween decorations. They looked at different shapes and made links to Design and Technology; investigating Shape Theory and how it influences perception. They chose to decorate their form room, creating a plan of it and using the plan to organize where to place decorations and considering practicality of placement.











As part of the end of term trip to bowling, some pupils (and staff) played some pool in Eastbourne.

It shows how much some people play at school as they were showing some excellent skills on some slick tables. Well done to all who took part.













*

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

Our tutor group (CWA) went to Blackbrooks garden centre to buy some Christmas decorations for our tutor base.

Children were able to manage their budget well, making sure they did not over spend. Not only did this shopping trip support their functional math skills it also supported their social awareness. Children managed the visit really well and were a credit to the school.

ISP Catering Corps!

Over the last term we have been extremely busy in the kitchen with students making meals like Chicken Stir Fry to a Full English and the GCSE trying their menus of Gammon with all the trimmings to Tagliatelle with Pancetta, Basil and Mozzarella.

We also have the staples like Crispy Cakes, Apple Crumble, Lemon Drizzle Cake and of course a Biscoff Cheesecake. If there is anytime available during the day there is always time for a quick pancake cook off. Just before the Christmas Break we have tried Fudge and Peppermint Creams for giving as presents and that old favourite Mince Pie treat (or jam tart for some).

For our annual Christmas Buffet on the last week of term the GCSE Food Tech Catering Corps, will be showing off their culinary skills in the preparation and distribution of the chosen finger / party food for the whole school.

Over the Holidays the GCSE Food Tech group will be researching and preparing for their 3 course meal exam piece.

























Fishing in Battle

As the days got colder, darker and wetter we continued to go out fishing.

This term we have had 2 new students who have been able to start and improve on their fishing skills. One of the students has even taken it up as a hobby outside of school. All have caught fish, unhooked and replaced them back in the lake.

The lake we regularly go to are always more than happy to see us and have been very helpful with the students. All now have fishing licences which means they can fish anywhere across the country where fishing is allowed.

















Volunteering at The Watermill Wolves

Children have been visiting the Watermill Wolves on a weekly basis volunteering their time to support the needs of the wolfdogs.

The Watermill Wolves invite the public to the sanctuary for a variety of events to help fund the sanctuary. Children have developed the pathways leading through the woodland to allow for further safe access and begun to support with developing the enclosures ready for the winter months.

The children are super excited as, Moonshine, one of the ambassador wolfdogs has just given birth to five pups, and the children will have the opportunity to be a part of their socialising training when they are a little older.



















Lava lamps made using water, vegetable oil, food colouring and baking soda.

KS3 Science

KS3 children have explored animal and plant cells, and in term 2, forensic science, where they have learned about how fingerprinting techniques, and testing liquids for acidity using pH testing can help solve crimes.

During the topic on cells, the children made plant and animal cells from jelly, with sweets representing the sub-cellular structures inside the cells. For Halloween, children made lava lamps from water, vegetable oil, food colouring and baking soda.

KS3 English

Our Key Stage 3 classes have enjoyed a captivating journey through the mysterious and thrilling world of Gothic literature!

We have explored the genre's rich language and atmosphere, and the children been able to transfer some of these techniques into their own work. Here is just a small selection of gothic/spooky tales to feast your eyes upon..



















acse Human Geography Field Trip

For this Year's GCSE Human Geography Field Trip our Question was: -

Do people travel further to go to Ravenside Shopping Centre or Battle High Street?

We used Questionnaires and pedestrian/ car counts and recorded our results on excel spreadsheets. We looked at the types of shops and how far people travelled and what sort of transport they used.

We found that, although Ravenside was very busy, generally people had come from Bexhill or St Leonards. When we went to Battle High Street the second couple we interviewed had come from Western Australia and we kept meeting people who had come on a coach trip from the North of England to visit Battle Abbey.

Without doubt people had travelled further to Battle High Street and visiting Battle Abbey was the big tourist attraction.

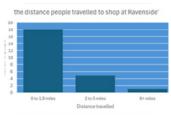


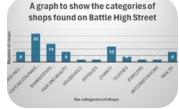


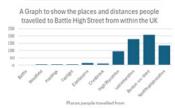
How the people we interviewed travelled to Ravenside Retail Centre.



■ Car ■ Walk ■ Bus







Reading at Raystede

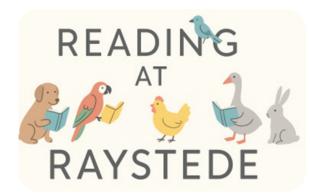
During term 1, as part of their work for Entry Level English, around the theme of 'Pets', children in the KS4 nurture group paid a trip to Raystede to read to some of the animals.

This was a return visit for some of them who had previously paid them a visit in July 2023 to read them the animal poetry they had written (you can find out more about this trip on our website). They were joined by the KS3 Nurture group, none of whom had been to Raystede before. Children are hoping to carry out some fund raising activities to raise enough money to sponsor a Raystede anima, so watch this space!

Children selected books that had an animal theme and read extracts to some of the animals. It was lovely to hear the children read so confidently, and is testament to all the work that is done in school to support reading such as tutor reading sessions, Literacy and Lexia lessons as well of course, as in their English lessons. Not to be outdone, even Gareth, KS3 Nurture group tutor got in on the act.



















Georgie's Story

In Key Stage 3 English we have been looking at Gothic Literature and exploring sensory details and atmosphere in descriptive writing.

As a breakaway lesson we explored the image below and Georgie has not put her pen down since.



Description of the sum was a setting of the sum was standard of the about the looke of a bird. So in the subtended of the about the looke of the about the subtended of the about the subtended of the about the subtended of the s

has entrove the twee I glide through the best of 100 for All the caches colored at 150 Sevienting I the 150 Sevien

gent Took, so T. Pitt On JPD Instac challed shall view to the tytek T. See Some costs and out the central of the eye that T. See Some costs and out the central of the eye of the central of the eye of the the central of the eye of the the central of the eye of the eye of the JPD Instance Ins

Then I wich, for linch I had Mac and themselves charse and arrange while Juice I may see soliting through states and I ask Mo Strand Is She what has been a set to solid when each 35 I will 90 km in Strands ye will be early 35 I will 90 km in Strands ye will be a solid when each solid which so both themselves will be a solid with the solid of the solid years and the solid will be a solid with the solid will be solid will be solid with the solid will be solid will be solid with the solid will be solid will be solid with the solid will be solid with the solid will be solid

KS4 Biology

Over the last 2 terms, the Y11's have been looking at Topic 6 & 7 of their biology units, Inheritance, Variation, Evolution and Ecology.

The Y11's have been working really hard on developing and extending answers to questions in preparation for their Biology GCSEs. Alongside this, the Y11's have voiced that they would like to engage in science experiments where possible to support their engagement in lessons.

Student C asked if we could do elephant toothpaste, as this is something they have always wanted to do in KS3. Chloe spoke to Caroline, chemicals were ordered and risk assessments were completed, and our elephant toothpaste experiment took place outside.

Y11's asked for their next experiment we could create lava lamps. Chloe (Biology teacher) ensured that all ingredients were in for this experiment, but reminded the children that experiments could only take place on the basis they are attending all lessons leading up to this lesson to enable background learning to take place.









Christmas Tree Farm

It's that time of year where ISP School visit Catsfield Christmas tree farm. Children spend the morning walking through a maze of pine trees, looking for the perfect Christmas tree. This tradition commences Christmas festivities at ISP School, children will now craft, sing and decorate throughout the school in preparation for our Christmas festival.

























T: 01424 238640

E: battle@ispschools.org.uk