

INIS Newsletter

Head Teacher Message



April 2024 - Issue 11

Mrs Marshall - Head Teacher

Welcome back to the summer term! The year always seems to move on quickly from this point. We look forward to finding out about our new children for Reception intake September 2024 and arranging transition visits to our school and for our Year Twos as they move to Key Stage Two. We will also be organising new children for our nursery for September 2024. If your child is eligible and turns three before September 2024, please contact the main school office on 01933 654900.

Parents Survey

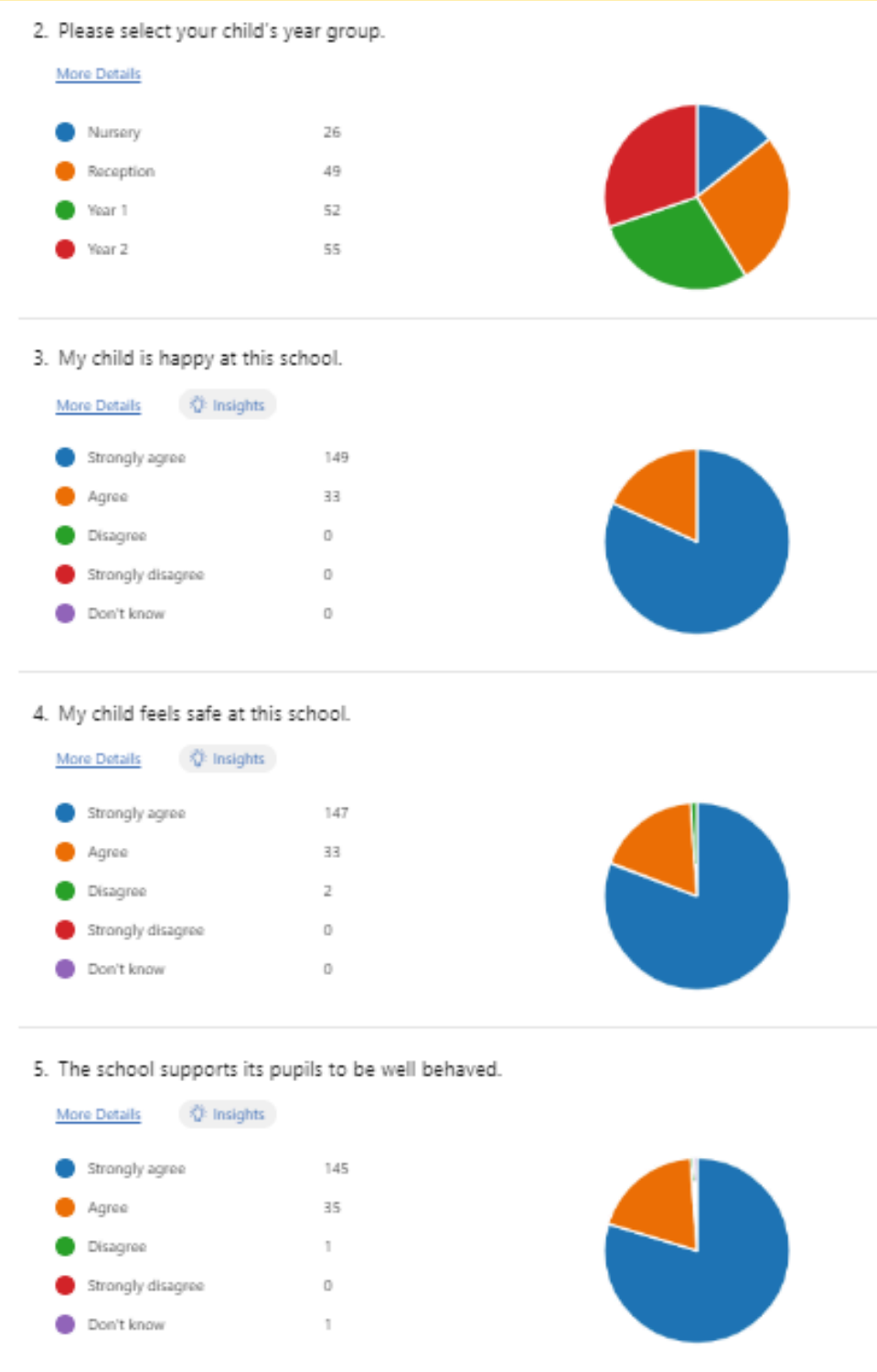
Thank you to all those parents who attended our parent partnership meetings and gave feedback to staff about how well they feel their child is progressing. I would also like to thank the parents who completed our parents survey this year as we had over 180 responses. We do take your feedback seriously and I will try and follow up on any unresolved issues if parents have added a child's name so I can reach out and make contact with you. Our aim is always to improve and I am particularly keen to follow up with a couple of parents who felt that concerns had not been followed up. This is something that we always aim to do, so if you feel a concern has not been dealt with please always contact the school office and the appropriate person will contact you.

I was very pleased to see that **100% of our parents would recommend our school to others**. The staff work very hard to ensure that our children get the best start to their education and that the foundations are laid for continuous progress.

Here are a few of the findings from my analysis. If you would like to see a full report, please contact the school office as there is too much information for a newsletter.

One of the things which came out in the comments section was that parents would like more clubs as not everyone who wanted a particular club could get in. We have tried to ensure this term we have plenty of spaces but as the clubs are usually run by one member of staff, we always ensure that they are safe and manageable.

The clubs list went out on the last day of the spring term so I hope if your child wanted a club, they got in.



Upcoming Dates

[Click here for a full calendar of date](#)

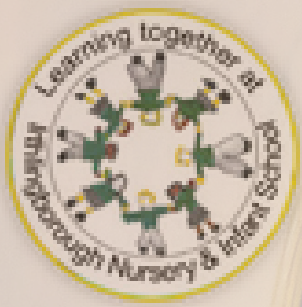
- 16th April** - Happy Chicks arrive to Reception
- 16th April** - Reception and Year 3 offer day
- 6th May** - May bank holiday - school closed
- 13th May** - Reception trip to Hamerton Zoo
- 20th May** - Year Two trip to Twycross Zoo
- 24th May** - Last day of term

How did you do with your Easter challenge?

Share your sheet with your class teacher to receive a certificate of achievement, if you completed at least eight tasks.

Welcome to our INIS Easter Holiday Challenges!	
This Easter we are asking you to see how many challenges you can complete as a family.	
How many challenges can you tick off?	
• Make an Easter card or picture for someone in your family. Make sure it is bright and colourful and that you write neatly inside.	
• Learn a new skill e.g. learning some British Sign Language, learn how to create something using origami or how to juggle!	
• Build a den outside or even in your home.	
• Can you help make a lunch for your family or do some baking together?	
• Do something kind for someone in your house. Perhaps tidy up your bedroom or do the washing up after dinner.	
• Snuggle down and watch a film with your family.	
• Send a note to your teacher about something you enjoy at school. You could either bring it into class after the holiday or post it to school.	
• Read a book to someone in your family. Can you read your book somewhere unusual?	
• Can you write a story about some magical creatures and bring it into school after the holiday?	
• Research and memorise a fascinating fact that you can share with your class when you come back to school.	
• Take a long walk/bike or scooter ride with your family.	
Keep us posted with what you are up to – share your pictures on X and Facebook so we know how you are getting on!	

If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact the school on 01933654900, the local authority following the link [report a concern](#) or NSPCC report a concern to [NSPCC](#)



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Clubs

We have some **new** clubs for the summer term.

Monday 3.15pm - 4.15pm - Football for Reception - sign up on Arbor.

and the continuation of **gardening club**. If you don't want your child to continue please contact the office, as we have children wanting to attend.

Tuesday 3.15pm - 4.15pm - Football for Year One and Two outside

Wednesday 3.15pm - 4.15pm - Multi-skills for Reception, Year One and Two

Zozimus drama lunchtime club - Spaces available sign up [here](#)

Thursday 3.15pm - 4.15pm - Cricket Year One and Two - sign up on Arbor.

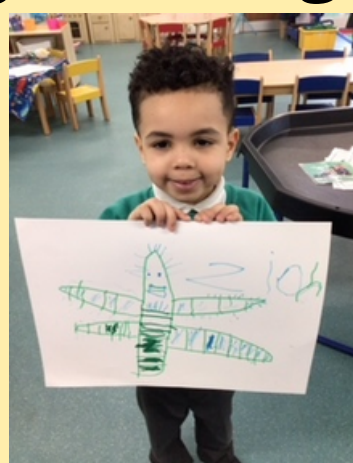
Art Minds 3.15pm - 4.30pm - Sign up by emailing info@artminds.org.uk

Choir will also continue, so if your child no longer wants to take part please email the office as we have a waiting list.

Rock Steady gives your child an opportunity to learn an instrument and there are places available. This happens on a Thursday afternoon during lesson time, for more information [click here](#). Spaces available

Friday 3.15pm - 4pm Maypole Dancing Club - Year Two only. Starting next Friday- look out for the letter and fill in the slip! We hope to do a performance at some point for parents!

Amazing nursey drawings!



PTA news

Thank you to all the families who took part in our sweet tombola at the end of last term. All the funds will be used to support the children with extra activities. We are looking forward to getting our duck and chick eggs for Nursery and Reception this term, directly funded by the PTA from an ethically sustainable company.

Please join our next PTA meeting in school at 3.15pm on April 29th in the school meeting room.

All are welcome to support our fundraising efforts and to see where the money is spent.

All the children should be talking to you about their ten new books for the summer term in every class. These again have been funded by our PTA.

It would be great to see more parents at our next meeting as many of our committee have children in Year Two so will be leaving as parents in the summer. We need parents to make our discos, tombolas, wonderful women gift shops and other events happen, so please think about joining us.

Nature area

We have enjoyed using our nature area for sessions in Nursery and Reception. In the summer term both Year One and Year Two will also have some sessions. The area has bird boxes, a hedgehog box and lots of amazing plants. Activities are planned to allow the children to be close to nature, to see the changes in seasons and to take some risks. There are brambles, nettles and uneven ground in our nature area. Here are just a few pictures from last term.





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Phonics Screening

Important information, particularly for Year One

The Phonic Screening Check is a national programme which all children in Year One take. This year the screening check week starts on 10th June. It is very important that your child is at school this week. If they are absent they will have to take the test in Year Two. In addition, any child in Year 2 who did not reach the required level when they took the test in Year 1 will take the test again in Year 2. If for any reason, we feel that there is a valid reason why your child should not take the test in Year 1, the class teacher will discuss this with you. Please note, this is only done in exceptional circumstances and your child would still be eligible to take the retake when they are in Year 2.

What is phonics?

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read. They are taught how to:

- Recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes
- Identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make e.g. sh and oo
- Blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word.

Children can then use this knowledge to segment and blend new words that they hear or see.

Hopefully most of our parents will be aware of phonics as we have held phonic information sessions and enabled parents to attend lessons. If you would like to know more please talk to your child's class teacher. Your child will have been working on phonics since nursery and our programme at INIS is very rigorous as we believe it is our job to teach every child to read.

What is the Phonics Screening Check?

The screening check comprises of a list of 40 words that children read one-to-one with their teacher. The list is a combination of both real and made up, nonsense words which rely purely on using phonics to decode. The nonsense words are words that have been made up and will be shown with a picture of an imaginary creature to help them. The phonics screening check will take place one-to-one but the children will largely be unaware of it being a test and have already participated in some practice checks.

What are nonsense words?

Nonsense words are important to include because words such as 'vap' or 'jound' are new to all children. Children cannot read the non-words by using their memory or vocabulary; they have to use their decoding skills. This is a fair way to assess their ability to decode.

The results of the check will be shared with parents/carers in the end of year report.

Spare clothes request!

If you have any clothes that your child has grown out of we would appreciate donations, especially boys and girls underwear, socks, trousers/shorts and dresses.

We are also looking for any toy cars for children to play with at playtimes!

If you have a concern or have seen any Safeguarding issues that you are worried about, Mrs Marshall is the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead and here are her safeguarding deputies, who are always ready to listen.

Please ask at the office to speak to them in confidence or call 01933 654900.



Mrs Parsons-Moore



Mrs Marshall



Mrs Luke



Mrs Cummins



Miss Ratcliffe



Mrs Richardson

If you have any safeguarding concerns during the holidays or weekends, please contact the local authority on 0300 126 7000 or phone 999, if you feel the child is in immediate harm.

Helping your child with phonics at home

Phonics works best when children are given plenty of encouragement and learn to enjoy reading and books. Parents play a very important part in helping with this.

Some simple steps to help your child learn to read through phonics:

- You can reinforce phonics at home. Look on the School website for activities and how to pronounce the letter sounds.
- You can then highlight these sounds when you read with your child such as two letter sounds, 'ee', 'ch' and 'ck'.
- With all books, encourage your child to 'sound out' unfamiliar words and then blend the sounds together from left to right rather than looking at the pictures to guess. Once your child has read an unfamiliar word you can talk about what it means and help him or her to follow the story.
- Try to make time to **read with your child every day**. Grandparents and older brothers or sisters can help, too. Encourage your child to blend the sounds all the way through a word.
- Word games like 'I-spy' can also be an enjoyable way of teaching children about sounds and letters. You can also encourage your child to read words from your shopping list or road signs to practise phonics.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.



Nursery places available for September 2024

Our Nursery School provides a fun, caring and safe environment for your child as they begin their learning journey.

For more information about our nursery, or to arrange a visit, please follow the link above or call us on 01933 654900, we will be happy to help.



Please share with local friends and family, who have children aged three by August 31st 2024.

We look forward to meeting you.

We specialise in getting children ready for school, with a trained teacher, expert staff and a wonderful, safe environment for children to thrive both inside and out.

Come and join the INIS family!

