



Bakewell Class Newsletter

Autumn 1 – September 2026

Working together to

inspire nurture empower

Welcome Back & Updates

Hi Everyone,

My name is Ian. I am the teacher for Bakewell Class and I just wanted to say we are very excited to welcome each and every one of you as we enter a new school year at Ivy House. We hope you've all had a fantastic summer and are ready for an exciting new school year! Our team this year is myself, Ashleigh who will be helping me to run the Bakewell Class with Aleesha, Ethan, Kiera and Abbie who are teaching assistants supporting your child further. To help us all work towards the same goals and build amazing relationships along the way, I will be calling each family in coming weeks to try and get to know you all a little! We would love to learn more about your feelings, aspirations and current aims/goal for your child, along with anything you feel we could help with - such as keeping safe, personal hygiene or tasks which could make home life easier to manage or give greater confidence/independence! I look forward to speaking with you all, if you need to anything beforehand, please feel free to contact me by phone or email (ian.wolstenholme@ivy.set.org). The school diaries will also be used to share information from the day and we're so excited to get started!

Key Concepts and Skills

Our learning theme for this half term is 'The Inventing Room' this will only comprise a portion of our Ivy House Curriculum as we cover life skills, personal safety and most importantly of all Communication each and every day.

Our formal sessions will consist of firstly Communication & Interaction, where for the inventing room our work will be based around the book "George's Marvellous Medicine". We will explore this topic through sensory experiences to bring this hilarious and fun story to life for our students. In Cognition & Learning, both our pre-formal and semi-formal learners will look the topic 'Matching, Sorting and Comparing'.

Closely linked to our topic, in Understanding the World lessons, we will look at some amazing inventions over time such as the wheel or airplanes where will make our own models and artwork! In PSED, we will cover life skills such as washing clothes and preparing food safely. Lastly, in our Expressive Arts lessons we will use different musical instruments to invent our own compositions.



Reminders / additional information



If it is appropriate for your child to have snack, there will be some available. Please use the Arbor app to make donations towards this if you choose to do so. We will have a range of snack options in class including yoghurts, crisps, biscuits and juice.



This half term our hydro day is **Wednesday** but please send in your child's kit at the beginning of the week as we may take them in whenever there is a space. Please include a costume/trunks, 2 towels and some body wash/shampoo.

Please ensure your child has at least one set of spare clothes in school at all times.
Thank you.



Home Learning Curriculum Ideas

Communication & Interaction

Communication is the most important skill we can develop both at home and in school! The Makaton signs shown below make a great start to help build a sense of two-way communication along with signs/symbols and objects of reference.

Turn taking games are a key target for most of our pupils in Bakewell so this would also help to build awareness of interactions with others, and exchange.



Reading

Does your child engage with a story or show their understanding? Using language along with sensory items to help reinforce the words/ language used is a superb way of helping students develop their reading and cognition knowledge.

It is such good fun! Try using cold items for when the story describes coldness, slime or similar for strange textures or water when the story encounters a river, the possibilities are endless!

Life Skills

Life skills are so important for all our students to help them grow and develop into more confident adults!

Try activities such as pairing socks, putting pots in the dishwasher after use or helping in any way around the house such as with tidying or cleaning. This will help your child develop a sense of helpfulness and routine.



Expressive Arts

Using art and music with your child is a great way to let them express themselves whilst having lots of fun.

Try chilling out to a meditative playlist on Youtube, combined with some massage, or create a finger painting masterpiece helping pupils develop their fine motor control! Both disciplines offer a wide variety of safe options along with they key sensory inputs your child needs!

Makaton signing

Hello	My
Name	Is

look	listen	tidy
read	write	story
work	lunch	play
next	finished	toilet
show (me)	learn	wait

BUNNY	MOTHER/DAD	DINNER (1)
DADDY	FATHER/DAD	DINNER (2)
BROTHER	RUB	FOOD (1)
SISTER	TOP	FOOD (2)
DRINK	SMALL	WATER
BISCUIT	TOILET	BED