

Ickford News

Miserable weather has not dampened our indomitable Ickford spirit and, as is the norm, the children returned to school after a well-deserved half term rest, full of enthusiasm for learning.

We began the week with an assembly to reinforce the Steps to Stop and to ensure that every child and every member of staff understands our zero-tolerance of bullying and how we try to 'empower' every child to stand up to undesirable behaviour. Though the message is constant and regularly re-delivered, the children understand why and recognise the importance of repeating our Steps to Stop and zero tolerance to bullying at Ickford mantra especially when new children join the school.

Whilst we always discuss how to prevent bullying, during this assembly, we also discussed how everyone has the potential to be a bully and, collectively, the children came up with a list of proactive things to do to ensure that they are never tainted by such description. The list the children came up with included, being kind, playing nicely, understanding our uniqueness, treating others in ways you would want to be treated, saying sorry and recognising that stop means stop.

I showed several parents around the school this week who were all hoping to secure a place in the school. Some of the parents were looking for places for children already at school (others were for Reception places) and without fail, during the show round, these parents always remark on the behaviour of the children and the sense of calm collaboration. Trust me, if they don't I do because I know how well behaved the children are and how this impacts favourably on the learning environment. It is also the reason we do

not have issues with bullying. When I am asked for advice as to how schools can deal with bullying, my first response is always, ensure that you have high expectations of all behaviour and don't shy away from insisting it is good.

We will continue to repeat our anti-bullying message and our commitment to the school values in assembly and it will be very soon. We have several new children joining our school in the near future and it is important that they understand and feel that Ickford is a safe place to be as well as understanding that we all have a responsibility to keep it that way. We had a visit from the Executive Director for Children's Services on Friday and in his words, the environment is 'exemplary'.

I am grateful to the parents who came to support the KS1 Badminton Team on Wednesday over at Waddesdon (behaviour comparisons evident!) as they helped steady the nerves and motivate the team to win the competition. Some fancy racket work, strong hand to eye co-ordination and typical Ickford stamina ensured a huge points margin over the second placed school who, I hear, have taken to calling us 'Yukford' (chuckle). On Thursday when a team of children from Year 3 and 4 took part in an indoor football tournament at Wheatley Park, we were not as successful. Nonetheless, the team came a credible third place and recognised that Sandhills School, the winners were a good team who played really well throughout the competition.

A favourite hymn, This Little Light of Mine, was sung at the end of the Celebration Assembly on Friday a reminder that, trying to put out someone else's light, doesn't make yours glow any brighter.

Mr Ronane Headteacher Yukford

Ickford News from the office

Sponsors

Dates for your diary...

5 th March	World Book Day
16 th – 20 th March	Y5/6 PGL Residential
27 th March	PTA Quiz Night
2 nd April	School Disco
3 rd April	INSET Day
6 th -17 th April	Easter Holiday

School Lottery

A winner within school every week!

If you would like the chance to win, and support the school, please click on the link below and get signed up!

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/ickford-school>



Please sign up for the lottery if you have not already done so and please get your friends and family to. The more entries the bigger the jackpot!

Thank you

Thank you to all the parents for leaving the playground swiftly in the mornings since my request. It has made life much easier.



**TIDDINGTON
GARAGE**

Wakelin Electrical Services

