

Ickford News

These are strange days in the world of school leadership and I am beginning to question my sanity and my innings! In times past, I may have sought solace in the classroom listening to the children whose conversations fascinate me or perhaps immersed myself in some DIY around the school but the broken leg is both frustrating and restraining. I run a tight ship with a robust policy on attendance and I am not about to apologise for this to anyone because it makes a difference.

I have spent some time this weekend looking at the most recent parent questionnaire or 'satisfaction survey' as it may be better named. In reality, the survey is a duplicate of the Ofsted, Parent View used during inspection. I have crunched the numbers and produced the results as percentages below. One respondent has a value of approximately 1.4% and I have rounded it to 1.5% so it is fairly easy to see what the numbers represent.

1. My child is happy at this school. [97% agree](#) [3% disagree](#)
2. My child feels safe at this school. [98.5% agree](#) [1.5% disagree](#)
3. The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved. [98.5% agree](#) [1.5% disagree](#)
4. The school deals with bullying quickly and effectively. [98.5% agree](#) [1.5% disagree](#)
5. The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year. [100% agree](#)
6. When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly. [97% agree](#) [1.5% disagree](#) [1.5% NA](#)
7. SEN support is good [100% agree](#)
8. The school has high expectations for my child. [100% agree](#)

9. My child does well at this school.

[97% agree](#) [3% disagree](#)

10. The school lets me know how my child is doing. [97% agree](#) [3% disagree](#)

11. There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.

[100% agree](#)

12. My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school. [97% agree](#) [3% disagree](#)

13. The school supports my child's wider personal development. [100% agree](#)

14. I would recommend this school to another parent. (yes or no) [100% agree](#)

Included in the survey was the opportunity to make comments and I am very grateful to everyone that did as most were complimentary and will certainly boost morale amongst the great teachers we are fortunate to have. I sometimes remind them that, unlike some professions, the results of their work and its impact on individuals may not be recognised until many years in the future and that's why sometimes teaching can appear to be a 'thankless task'.

The comments have also provided me with some useful information and I have been looking at how we can act on some suggestions. One thing that is clear is the need for more co-curricular clubs (term brazenly plagiarised from Mr Wallace last year) for children in KS1 and these to be of a non-sporting nature. The problem with clubs is that they need to be staffed and, as most will know, I tend to oversee a lot myself. The teachers work very hard and their time is limited, particularly if they have families of their own to look after so, I believe that if they are willing to run a co-curricular club after school hours they should be compensated for it. I have spoken to the staff about this and delighted to be able to announce that, after Easter we should be launching a

computer club run by Miss Allen, an embroidery club run by Miss Southgate and possibly a cookery club run by Mrs Vickers. Details are yet to be confirmed as we have to work out the timetable and there will need to be a charge for the clubs but, the wheels are in motion.

I hope that I clarified the position about packed lunches in my Parentmail last week. I caught a snippet of a Saturday morning news show yesterday with a truly 'inspirational' school cook being interviewed having won School Cook of the Year and it reminded me of being in schools that provided hot meals. I would love to think that this could one day be possible but, in truth, it is highly unlikely without a huge investment in new facilities.

I shall look through the comments again and update everyone if I feel we can make any alterations. I would be foolish to deny that the results of the survey are not good and it is clear that the majority are happy.

With very little time to prepare due to the half-term break, we competed in the Year 3/4 tennis competition last week. The four children representing the school, worked hard in the time we did have and put in a great performance at the event. They won their group games and then won their semi-final matches to win a place in the final against Long Crendon. Unfortunately, the Crendon team were too strong on the night and we lost some very close games finishing in second place. Congratulations to Long Crendon and we look forward to the next event.

At the beginning of last week, we had a visit from Rabbi Zvi, who came and spoke to the children about the customs and traditions of the Jewish faith. It is really important that we give children the opportunity to understand the beliefs of

others and what it means to be Jewish in the United Kingdom. Ignorance and misunderstanding can often lead to fear and discord so we will continue to try and educate the children about the diversity of religions and cultural difference as best we can.

This morning, I am very grateful to the Boardman and Snell families who came into school and pruned the trees at the side of the field in preparation for the new fencing to be erected. Mrs Snell (Snail to Class 1) managed to engage the whole clan into helping including her father, an incredibly knowledgeable man about all things to do with nature. I have had to give in to the dream of being able to finish the fence myself and hopefully it will be completed in the coming week.

Regular readers of the newsletter will know that I try and include companies that support the school through a monetary donation or through carrying out discounted work, under the heading **Sponsors** at the end of each newsletter. These people have often been the difference between getting something done or not and I am grateful to all of them particularly as I am not sure advertising on the Ickford newsletter provides a huge media presence!

We are looking for sponsorship of this year's KS2 Summer Concert which is planned for June. Ideally, if we could raise about £700 this would enable us to emulate the success of recent years and cover the costs of such things as lighting, stage back drops, piano tuning and refreshments. If anyone would like to offer sponsorship please get in touch either with myself or Mrs Shackleton. In the past we have had a number of sponsors and promoted several companies in whatever way we can. For example, a company of solicitors used the

evening to promote their company using banners such as one would see on a trade stand. I am happy for anything, even a bit of product placement in my welcome and thank you speeches!

Enjoy the rest of the weekend.

Mr Ronane

Ickford News from the office

Dates for your diary...

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>



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