

Ickford News

“Plant a Tree in 73!” I distinctly remember having to design and paint a poster to promote this slogan when I was at Primary School. This was a Government-sponsored national campaign in the United Kingdom, aimed at encouraging the population to participate by planting trees during the 1973 'National Tree Planting Year'. At the time a new, virulent strain of Dutch Elm Disease was sweeping the country, killing millions of trees. Here we are, forty-seven years later and I am still in Primary School, advocating an urgent need to plant trees whilst a new virulent disease wreaks chaos only this time across the world and amongst human beings not trees.

Thank you to Mrs O’Kennedy who in her role as a Governor and Guardian of the School Council this year, braved the mud in her wellies to join the children in planting trees on the field. One tiny contribution to saving the planet and supporting nature but, as they say, every little helps. Our copse or mini-forest as we prefer to think of it, was donated from the Woodland Trust and if anyone else is thinking of planting some trees, I recommend them as a source of advice and species.

Tomorrow (Monday) I will travel to a part of Surrey called the ‘Devil’s Punch Bowl’ with the children in Year’s 5 and 6 for a week-long residential trip at PGL. I am not alone in this but immensely grateful to Mme Basnett, Mrs Snell and parent Zeita Scott who will be abandoning their families and coming with me to look after the children. Just in case anyone is misguided and thinks that this is an easy ‘gig’ with extra financial reward, I can assure you it is not. The staff members coming with us are not obliged or

contracted to do so and they definitely don’t get any extra money. Mme Basnett for example, will leave her three children at home and will also have to continue her school preparation ready for when we return. It is a very busy and important time of the year for her as she continues to selflessly give 100% to ensure the success of the children as they prepare for their national tests.

I shall continue to monitor the Coronavirus situation as I have been doing and we shall continue to send out relevant information. It is not the time for personal opinions or discussion, we simply have to follow the guidance we get from the DfE and the Department of Health. All I can ask of parents is that you help us to avoid unnecessary anxiety amongst the children and to reinforce the need for personal hygiene. Our school is cleaned each day and we already have hand sanitisers in place. Fortunately, I think we have plenty of toilet tissue as well!

If you get a chance to look at the website, you should be able to see the first of our revised curriculum maps posted under the ‘Our Learning’ tab. Hopefully, you will find them easy to access and clear to understand. If you see me and like them, please let me know.

The new fence on the school field is finally erected thanks to Mr Glead, one of our best supporters, who stepped in and rescued me. Hopefully, when the rain stops we can finish off some of the necessary landscaping and come the summer, everything will look beautiful.

Hopefully, next week will run smoothly and perhaps the world will right itself again. Or maybe I will join the Devil in a glass of punch!

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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