

# Ickford News

I have to admit to sitting at my desk feeling rather sad and deflated. It has been a strange day, in fact, a strange past three weeks. I have experienced the good and the disappointing, the selfless and the selfish and lost a very close friend.

I am so pleased that we chose to go ahead with the Residential week and so grateful to the children who understood why I had to come back a little early and made life so easy for me.

During our week at Marchant's Hill, the children were exceptional in so many ways. Not only did many confront their fears; heights, claustrophobia, being away from home to name a few, but every child supported and looked after one another in ways it is difficult to articulate in print. Hesitation half way up a climbing wall brought out cries of encouragement and support. Reluctance to let go and trust equipment at the top of the abseiling wall drew patience and kind words. Tears of relief after scaling Jacob's ladder were quickly wiped away and shoulders engulfed by the arms of friends.

Yes, there were some, 'only Ickford' moments. Imagine... two Zip wires alongside each other, School X on the left and Ickford on the right. 14 in School X group, 11 in the Ickford group. An hour to participate. School X complete 12 zips Ickford 33 – enough said! (Headteacher one legged abseil, another story) We had a great time, sharing meal times, sharing stories and laughter, sharing their sweets! A few scratches, bumps and bruises but these were shared and compared as badges of honour! No T.V. no screens, no social media, thanks team Ickford.

Everyone should by now be clear about the immediate future regarding school although the Parentmail system has been under some strain and several pieces of information have been delayed. We have done our best and will continue to do so but I hope everyone understands that it has not been easy.

We have managed to ensure that every child has some daily learning activity but I accept that this will not be sufficient to compensate for missing time at school. We are also making provision for some children whose parents are deemed 'critical' Key workers but, if we are able to continue doing this, it can only be a very limited service for a small number as I have to consider the health and safety of the staff and their families.

Our school reports are sent out after the Easter holiday and this will still be the case, although they may be posted rather than handed out.

I shall miss the children and my colleagues in the coming weeks, you see, I actually mean it when I say, "I love them all dearly". Hopefully it will not be too long before we are all together under normal circumstances again.



Mr Ronane