

Ickford News

I imagine that many of the children and their families will be lighting some fireworks this weekend or attending public displays that celebrate Guy Fawkes Day. My immediate hope is that everyone remains safe and enjoys any events but I am also reminded about something the children and I discussed in assembly this week, a celebration that also uses fireworks, Diwali or, as it is often translated as, the Festival of Lights. Diwali is predominately celebrated by Hindu and Sikh communities around the world and amongst other things, signifies new beginnings. When I explained Diwali to the children, I was struck by the sentiment that being able to review and refresh anything is a wonderful opportunity. The chance to go back and take a different metaphorical pathway is something to value whether it be a child or an adult, an individual or a group.

I am certainly delighted to have met with our new Board of Trustees on Thursday evening, an occasion that, for me represents something of a new beginning. The meeting was very positive and although in its infancy and with a couple of roles still to be covered, I know that Mme Basnett and I both left the meeting with a feeling of excitement that a new chapter in the history of Ickford School was about to begin and that the future was bright.

You will hear more information about our Trustees throughout the year and you will be able to read more about them through the school website. I also hope to create a notice board in the school reception with pictures of our Trustees and Members as a point of reference and so that you can begin to put faces to names. They play an important role in overseeing the strategic direction of our school and ensuring that it fulfils its mission of inspiring children to learn and motivating them to achieve.

Today I had the pleasure of taking lunch with our Class representatives that make up the School Council. I can assure you that, despite it being an alcohol-free occasion it was still lively and the conversation flowed. We spent time discussing the suggestions that children had submitted to the class reps and looking at feasibility. I was incredibly impressed by the thoughtful way in which the children evaluated suggestions and made a democratic decision about whether to pursue or dismiss each one. At the end of the meeting, the Council agreed to try writing an addition to next week's newsletter summarising our discussion and explaining some of the children's views on the school. Hopefully, these budding journalists will meet the deadline to permit publication. I can alert you to the fact that toilets and pavements were issues for debate but purchasing a goat was dismissed as unfeasible. I have a feeling this group may be the most militant School Council yet!

Due to illness, Miss Allen had to postpone her parent evenings until this week but now that they are all concluded, everyone should have some idea of the progress their child is making after the first half-term. The most important thing is to engage with what the class teacher has said and encourage your child to work on any areas for development. It is early in the year but time goes quickly and must not be wasted. It is an unequivocal fact that children supported at home, will find it easier to succeed in the classroom and that sometimes means reinforcing the message from the teacher that a child may not like.

In order to help you in the challenge of supporting your children, we are going to offer some workshops again relating to what and how we teach. The first one is planned for November 10th at 7.00 pm and will be delivered by myself and Miss Vukomanovic covering the phonics programme and supporting reading. Some will have already availed of this before but please feel free to

come again if you want a refresher, everyone is welcome.

Back to new beginnings and it was really good to welcome KS2 parents back to Celebration Assembly again today. It wasn't without the odd hitch and I am not sure you quite matched the exuberance of the KS1 parents, but given that some of you are 'past masters' it was an uplifting affair nonetheless. We welcomed two guests to the assembly, Lucia from France and Miriam from Austria who, under the guidance of Mrs Nicholls (Edward Class 2) are language teaching students currently based in Lord Williams' School. Mrs Nicholls arranged with our own language supremo, Mme Basnett for the ladies to come in and talk, in their native tongues, to the children in Year 6 as well as visiting some of the other classes. The visit was a huge success and Lucia and Miriam were blown away by the confidence of the children and their ability to ask and answer questions in French and in German. I am so happy that Mme Basnett has been able to begin teaching the infant classes again and determined that we can maintain our language curriculum. Mrs Nicholls did share the fact that Ickford alumni in Year 7 at Lord Williams', currently sit top of the class in German which made me very proud indeed.

Finally, it was also really fantastic to see Mrs Turrell (Isla and Darcy Yr6) at Assembly this morning. I am sure many of you will know that Clare has suffered with cancer in the past year but thankfully she is on the road to recovery, so much so that she managed to raise £2000 for cancer research by taking part in a sponsored walk recently. I know that she will want me to thank all of you who generously sponsored her in her endeavour and helped her raise such a significant amount for a really worthy cause.

Have a good weekend.

Mr Ronane

Ickford News from the office

Dates for your diary...

10 th November	Phonics Workshop 7pm
11 th November	Rivers and Rowing Museum Class 4
26 th November	Fundraiser Meal
30 th November	Bletchley Park Class 5
5 th December	St Nicholas Play
7 th December	Nativity 1:30pm
9 th December	Nativity 7pm
14 th December	Christmas Lunch
15 th December	Robin Hood Pantomime

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>



Breakfast Club

Important

Please remember to book and pay for your child's place for breakfast club with the school office by Friday at midday for the following week.

Entry to breakfast club will be via Gate A by the Recreation Ground.



This Week's Celebration Assembly

Hall of Fame:

Music Award:

Ethan Crispin

Beatrix Walters

PE Award:

George Middleton

Matilda Ousley

Lyla Gill

Thomas Betteley

Eliza Gapper

Emily Aspden

Iyla Hitchcock

Anna Kerry

French Award:

Kirk O'Malley

Anabel Stevens

Edward Pentecost

Gwilym Walters

Matthieu Wolff

Deutsch Award:

Dominic Green

Latin Award:

William Arnold

Headteachers Award:

Willa Goode

Stella Anzarouth

Elin Roberts

Orla Kerry

Harry Johnson

Outdoor Learning Initiative:

Elsie Thomas

Elin Roberts

Emily Aspden

Amber Chadbone

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