

# Ickford News

Monday was noted in the diary as the first school assembly for the new Reception children. One of those, 'difficult to predict what will happen', occasions that can be a disaster if instigated too early. I am always surprised by just how quickly Miss Vukomanovic and her team manage to imbue the little ones with the necessary self-control for this first venture into the world of whole school activity and ageless tradition that is school assembly but the 'swagger' with which this year's troopers entered the arena was the most impressive to date. They 'waked and shaken' (or should that be 'woke and shook') like ex-Strictly professionals and then sat beautifully, undaunted by the sight of the strange guy in the suit talking about Ickford values before departing nonchalantly, unembarrassed by the eyes of the rest of the school that followed their every step and even giving me a few 'thumbs up' as they passed in front of me. Fortunately, I appear to have passed scrutiny as they returned the following day and sat through our 'Steps to Stop' slides without a wriggle, a tear, a stray conker, a toilet request or an escape attempt! Those of you who attended this morning's Celebration Assembly will have witnessed the same children already at ease in their surroundings thanks to the staff and the behaviour of the other children.

The Steps to Stop are very important in our school and we will be reinforcing their use as the term goes on. I would not be surprised if some of the new parents have already had this explained to them but if not, I am sure it is only a matter of time. Quite simply, in order to maintain a happy and safe environment where children can feel secure in the knowledge that 'bullying' will not be tolerated, we work hard to empower them with strategies to deal with adverse behaviour. The earlier version, 3 Step Approach was reviewed and altered slightly but the principle remains the same, if we don't like something we make a clear signal with our hand and we say, "Stop..."

In order to ensure this approach is effective, every member of staff knows and understands why we need a 'culture of telling' and that the phrase, "Don't tell tales," is prohibited. This is paramount as children must know that it is important to speak out immediately. The hope is that, in embedding this habit now, we can avoid our children being victims in the future and ensure that they have the courage to speak out when their rights are breached.

I am also hopeful that it will be clear to every parent that we do not promote or condone retaliation and we expect parents to support the children and the school in using the Steps to Stop rather than trying to seek retribution physically. Our ethos is such that the children play and work happily together and this is how we want it to remain.

During the week we held a workshop to explain phonics to parents and to give a brief overview of our policy about reading. It was well attended and I was delighted to see some parents who had been before but wanted a refresher. Obviously, at this point in the year, these workshops are targeted at the parents of new admissions but be assured that everyone is welcome. I am hopeful of convincing Miss Vukomanovic to repeat the phonics workshop so that those parents from year R who did not attend might reconsider and also to give an opportunity for anyone else to come. Phonics understanding is significant in reading development but with the lack of clarity surrounding the correct way to teach it, engaging as many parents as we can in ensuring school and home are in unison, will only benefit our early readers and writers.

Enough of new admissions, the rest of the school is in full swing and the children are living up to expectations. Attendance at sports clubs is high and the morning breakfast club buzzes with activity and to the tunes chosen by our resident DJs Lucas and Dominic. Our first inter-school tournament is the area Netball competition and this takes place immediately after half term so those hopeful of selection are working hard to improve particularly in the knowledge that they have quite a lot to live up to!

My last point is to thank all those that attended assembly this week and availed of Mme Basnett's French Café. Our assembly is important to us not only as a chance to celebrate but also as an act of worship. Regardless of your own beliefs or indeed non-beliefs we ask that everyone respects this part of the assembly and particularly the time of reflection and prayer. At this time, we are thinking very much of members of our community who are unwell and looking forward to them joining us again in good health.

Have a good weekend,

Mr Ronane

# Ickford News from the office

## Dates for your diary...

27 <sup>th</sup> September	Class 4 Victorian Day
4 <sup>th</sup> October	Class 4 Trip to Holdenby House
8 <sup>th</sup> October 2.30pm	Harvest Festival
11 <sup>th</sup> October	YR-Y5 Flu Vaccinations
16 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents Evening
18 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents Evening
22 <sup>nd</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup> October	Half Term

## School Lottery

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>



## Lost Property

A purple watches has been handed into the office, it was found in the Sports Hall. If you think it may belong to your child please ask Mrs Addis in the office.

## Uniform

All children must now wear winter uniform please. Details of this are available from the office or on the school website. We are looking to introduce a bobble hat as an alternative to the beanie hats so some may want to hold off buying a hat until they are in stock.

# TIDDINGTON GARAGE



# Wakelin Electrical Services

## Boardman Windows

