

Ickford News The calm induced

by the classical music playing in the corridors was abruptly shattered on Thursday morning by the shouts of a boy coming from Class 4. I immediately left my office and proceeded to the classroom only to be greeted by a throng of children chanting, "Spare the rod and spoil the child" and the sight of Tom Gibson being hauled by the ear to the front of the class. Thankfully, Tom, who had rather loudly voiced an unfavourable opinion about the subject of Mathematics, accepted his punishment of the cane stoically and the rest of the children learned from this example. Miss Honey or Madam as the children refer to her, placed her trusty cane back in its box and the children returned to their slates in silence.

Oh the temptation to end the newsletter there and wait for the Ofsted phone call and the mass exodus of families leaving the school but, as anyone present on the playground last Thursday morning will recognise, all of the above was carefully stage managed as part of the bi-annual Victorian Day in Class 4.

It is quite amazing that the children get so much fun out of this day considering it is full of such uninspiring activities based

upon the three Rs' – reading, writing and arithmetic and total immersion on the part of Mrs Honey and Mrs Winfield in the characters of Victorian teachers. Nonetheless, the children really enjoy it and this year everyone played their part in bringing history to life in the classroom. One boy even went so far as to include potato peelings in his lunch box! The children will visit Holdenby House next week in order to enhance their learning even more and to get some real experience as to what life was like for those 'upstairs' and 'downstairs' in the Victorian era.

Times have indeed changed in education and I was interested to see the march of the Headteachers to Downing Street on Friday reported in the Press (hardly a march more of a 50 metre stroll really). I empathise with them, yes budgets are extremely difficult to manage, but I didn't have the time to take a day out and I get travel sick on a coach.

The purpose of schools may have changed a great deal since the Victorian era but central to their success will always be the quality of teachers and I am delighted with ours.

Perimeter Fencing

A while ago I submitted a bid for funding towards a new perimeter fence but it was turned down. Unfortunately, the fence is in need of repair in several areas and we do our best to keep it secure. It is disappointing to see young children outside of the school gate in the afternoon being permitted to pull and swing on the wire as this is adding to the existing damage in the fence. It is lovely to see the young siblings at the gate waiting for the elder brothers and sisters but not to see children unsupervised (or supervised) damaging the property. One of the values the children in school have is 'Respect' and they include respect for our environment in this.

Uniform

Thank you to everyone for ensuring the children look smart in their winter uniform and that school policy is being adhered to. The new winter 'bobble hats' should be available very soon.

Punctuality

A reminder that school begins at 9.00am and all children should be waiting on the playground before this time ready to go into their classrooms. Please make every

effort to get your children to school on time as being late often causes them anxiety and is rarely their fault. We are obliged to act on persistent lateness.

Ickford NEWS from the office

Dates for your diary...

4 th October	Class 4 Trip to Holdenby House
8 th October 2.30pm	Harvest Festival
11 th October	YR-Y5 Flu Vaccinations
16 th October	Parents Evening
18 th October	Parents Evening
22 nd - 26 th October	Half Term
1 st November	School Photos
15 th November	Class 4 Assembly

Lost Property

1 x unnamed 9-10 Hoodie
1 x unnamed 11-12 Polo Shirt
1 x green hair band with green bow & white dots

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/ickford-school>