

Ickford News

There's nothing like a Harvest Festival and the refrain of All Things Bright and Beautiful for a bit of reminiscing. St Nicholas' Church in Ickford filled with the sound of the whole school singing transfers me and makes me appreciate the beauty in the simplest things, the autumn sun, the changing colour of the leaves and the warmth of childhood. We are fortunate indeed to have such a lovely setting on our doorstep and I hope that everyone who came on Monday enjoyed the celebration as much as I did.

I know I often superimpose the past with a rose tinted hue and imagine it as more idyllic than in reality it was but, one thing I am certain of, is that my time at primary school was certainly much more enjoyable than my secondary school years. Even though we didn't have to contend with the pressures of 'trial by social media' or aspire to 'z list' celebrity status it was still a fairly tough ride at times and, at my boys grammar literally survival of the fittest!

I have been thinking a great deal in the past year about the increasing number of young people struggling with mental health issues particularly as research shows that more than 75% of mental health issues begin before the age of 18 and 50 % before a child reaches 15. One of my concerns is that in a small school such as Ickford, where children get on really well with each other and where the boundaries are clear, the transition to secondary school may actually be more difficult than say from a large, town based school.

With this in mind, I arranged to see someone responsible for the Pastoral support of a year group in a secondary school last week and asked him his opinion. I was interested to learn that the children who seem to need more pastoral support and the group from which the highest number of 'school refusers' comes from is those from small village schools. I left the meeting having discussed several ideas about 'well-being' in schools and also with a clear message, the anxieties of pupils often 'feed off' the anxieties of parents.

As a result, the work we are doing at school around children's well-being, will now incorporate support for parents. We currently have a secondary transfer meeting in June for the parents of children in year 5 but this is really about the admissions process and the 11+ as part of our statutory duty. We will continue with this but I want to add another session for parents of children in Year 5 and 6 after Christmas which will attempt to unpick the mysteries of secondary schools and act as a forum to ask questions and hopefully get answers.

I have no intention of making the final year at Ickford more like secondary school or of making the children feel less secure. It is simply that I recognise that, for many of our children, the most difficult thing to do at Ickford is leave and I want to be assured that they have the best support in this.

Mr Ronane

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>



Ickford News from the office

Dates for your diary...

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