

Ickford News

On Friday afternoon, I showed two potential parents around the school. They had obviously done some homework and had certainly looked at their 'catchment' school so came prepared with several questions and not much of a smile in order to compare Ickford with school x. I answered the questions, showed the evidence of children's work and did my best to 'sell' the school but I admit, I found this tour difficult particularly when asked,

"What are the weak points?"

Having been in Friday's Remembrance Assembly and having watched and listened to the children deliver such an exceptional tribute to the men and women who have given their lives for the country, how could I find any weak points? I mumbled something about always having things to work on but in all honesty, they'd lost me. I know Ickford is far more than the published academic results but days like Friday make it increasingly difficult for me to explain to people just why I believe it is outstanding.

Let's begin with the singing. How wonderful it was to hear every child singing the old musical songs that were sung by the troops as they went off to fight in the Great War of 1914 and what a fantastic spectacle to see the teachers, teaching assistants and children all dressed up in their costumes. I have no doubt that our celebration would have reflected the celebration of Armistice Day 100 years ago.

Yet, just as in 1914, when celebration was muted by reflection and the recognition that so many families had suffered the loss of relatives, the children in year 6 presented their beautiful written work

and exceptional poetry highlighting their understanding of our history and the experiences of those involved. Whilst, every one of Class 5 played their part in delivering the message that Ickford will not forget, the faultless and dignified rendition of the Last Post played by Trixie and Florence on the flute, really was a moment that touched our hearts.

Mme Basnett orchestrated the whole assembly, supported of course by the other members of staff and her efforts combined with your support, ensured that not only were the fallen remembered, but those still living today may benefit in some way from the donation made to the Royal British Legion from the coffee and cake sale prior to assembly. My thanks to everyone.



Tomorrow, Monday, I am launching Ickford as a 'Brilliant School'. This is an initiative to enhance our work on well-being and I am hopeful it will be a focal point for pupils, staff and parents to ensure that everyone's, 'mental wealth' is prioritised as we continue our journey of constant improvement. Ever since I first stepped in to a classroom, I have tried to ensure that the pupils I taught were happy and safe because if I could ensure this, I was confident that I could help them to learn. As a school leader, I recognise that although parents want their children to succeed, their overriding desire is that they are happy. Although I am proud of the fact that our children are happy (certainly most of the time, it is after all school!) I want to ensure that we do as much as we can to guarantee this. Hopefully, the launch of 'Brilliant School' will help to do this so keep your eyes and ears open to what the children say about it.

Mr Ronane

Ickford News from the office

Dates for your diary...

12 th -16 th November	Bikeability Training
13 th November	Class 5 trip to Bletchley Park
15 th November 9am	Class 4 Assembly
11 th December 2-3pm	KS1 Nativity for whole school, grandparents and siblings
13 th December 6.30-7.30pm	KS1 Nativity (No pre- school aged children)
17 th December	Christmas Lunch
19 th December	Whole School Visit to Pantomime

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>



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