

Ickford News

We are two thirds of the way through the first term, the nights have drawn in and the weather has turned cold and the tenth newsletter of the year is one of the most difficult to write. Struggling to find inspiration, possibly suffering from 'writer's block', I spent 10 minutes looking back at my archived newsletters for something that might ignite the flame of opus but it is evident from the past that newsletter 10 is never a masterpiece!

Therefore, I ask forgiveness if I wax lyrical about the 'everyday experiences' or even the 'mundane' as, though not at the end, we are in the 'business' part of the term where activity and production are at their most intense which, is quite normal for Ickford school.

As I walk around or drop in on lessons, I am amazed by the progress so many of the children have made. Not only those who started school this year but also the older children, those who have already reached great heights but continue to grow both in academic understanding and in confidence. It is a pleasure to be able to walk through the school able to hear the music playing in the corridors and then to open doors to classrooms where there is a hive of activity within an environment conducive to successful teaching and learning.

Our 'Brilliant School' mental well-being focus is also very much in evidence and I am delighted that each class teacher has engaged in this project. During the past couple of weeks, children have been making lists of 30 things that they are lucky to have in their lives but they may be taking for granted (hopefully some may have come home and talked about this with you). One might think that young children would be automatically drawn

toward the material things in their lives but this has not been the case. It is clear to me that the older children in particular are really aware of the value in more unquantifiable possessions such as, friendship, warmth, love and positive relationships.

This week, many of the children will have discussed the '4 minute rule' in their classrooms. This is based on research that shows it takes about 4 minutes for other people to recognise how you feel and indeed to be 'infected' by your mood. We have challenged the children to be their 'best selves' for at least 4 minutes at times of the day when they can spread that mood to others or when they feel they are flagging a little. Ideally, we want them to make it the first 4 minutes of things they do, for example, the first four minutes of seeing the family in the morning, or the first 4 minutes of getting to school and seeing their friends, or the first 4 minutes of a lesson. If the first 4 minutes are their 'best selves', the chances are that others will respond positively to them and be their, 'best selves'. Our resident Dr of Happiness talks in terms of 'Mood Hoovers' and 'Two Percenters' but to me it is a question of Drains and Radiators. Better to radiate than drain!

I am hopeful that I can get some of our Brilliant School 'mental wealth' resources out for parents to share in the very near future as I would love for us to be a brilliant community and not just a brilliant school. Watch this space as they say.

Have a good weekend,

Mr Ronane

Ickford News from the office

Dates for your diary...

7 th December	PTA Dinner
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
18 th December 7pm	KS2 Carol Concert, St Nicholas Church
19 th December	Whole School Visit to Pantomime
19 th December	Christmas Fayre

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/Iottery/school/ickford-school>



Lost Property

The lost property box is filling up again, if you think any of the following items belong to your child please collect from the School Office:

Black SuperDry Coat (named Katy Palmer)

Next Grey Shorts Age 8

7-8 Sweatshirt

9-10 Cardigan

Girls age 6-7 PE Shorts

Harvey Chapman has lost a Bobble Hat with his name in it. If your child came home after Art Club with the wrong one could you return it to Harvey please.



Punctuality

Please remember that the children must be in line on the playground when the whistle goes in the morning at 9.00am. This is the start of the school day and children who do not go into the school with their class will be marked late in the register. If you are late, you must sign your children in at the office.

Children do not like to be late and it is rarely the fault of the child so please, as adults take responsibility for ensuring that they are on time.

Wakelin Electrical Services

**TIDDINGTON
GARAGE**

