

Ickford News

What was the name of Alexander the Great's beloved horse? Which recently deceased Stoke City goal keeper made the 'greatest save ever' during the 1970 World Cup competition?

If you have just answered both these questions without having to resort to Google then you need to get a table organised for the PTA quiz night on March 22nd and brush up on your Geography. Yes, an unashamed plug for the next fundraising event which takes place in Ickford Village Hall and for which tickets are still available from bensayer@hotmail.co.uk or via the PTA website. Thankfully, I have been relieved of any quizmaster duties and will not have to face the wrath of the professional 'quizzers' and I have been assured that this quiz will be more than just a test of general knowledge. I shall be there for the cheese!

Gordon Banks, not Alexander the Great's horse, rather the iconic England goalkeeper of my childhood, would have been proud of Zara Smith (Class 4) and the small team of children who competed last week in a football tournament at Wheatley Park School and came second overall losing only one of their games. I will admit that football is one sport that we do not pursue with as much energy as others (for several reasons) but always do our best to provide competitive teams. I promise Zara, Pippa, Abi, Noah, Ryan and Zac that their medals are on the way!

A sport which we have dominated amongst the Buck's schools this year is Badminton and, having already won area, regional and county competitions in 3 age groups this year, it was the turn of our infants to prove their potential at Waddesdon Secondary School last

Tuesday. A mixed team of boys and girls from Year 1 and 2 managed to control their nerves and demonstrate their technical ability against several other school teams and ensured Ickford won another area competition.

Behind the scenes work in school has focussed on two areas since before half term, teaching and learning to spell and the new directives for compulsory Relationships Education that were made public last week.

I have known for some time that the area of the curriculum known as Personal Social Health and Economic Education (PSHE) was going to be changed. The new elements of this curriculum area, that have been suggested for some time, have been triggered by significant changes to the way society as a whole views such things as mental health in young people, the impact of social media and the internet and the agenda for gender equality.

You may have read some bizarre stories in the press or seen some of the coverage on the news channels but please rest assured, we are not about to make any radical changes. We will continue to teach the children how to be healthy, how to stay safe and how to respect, tolerate and celebrate difference and we will continue to abide by any statutory demands of the DfE. Our new curriculum map and policy for Relationships Health and Sex Education are nearly completed and these will be shared with parents in due course giving you the opportunity to discuss them and to ask any questions you may have.

As for spelling (phew so much easier) as part of our determination to constantly review and improve practice, we have incorporated a new spelling scheme into

the current literacy curriculum and revitalised the way in which we teach and assess this element of writing. With such a huge focus on phonics in the last decade, it is clear to me that we are in danger of children being over reliant on using sounds to spell and, in a language that is not largely phonetic, this is fraught (perfect example) with danger. Phonetic knowledge is a great asset in the early stages of learning to read and write and we know that the wonderful Miss Vukomanovic is the Queen of teaching this but the transition to sight recognition and understanding how the English language and spelling is developed has, for a long time concerned me as something we need to focus on in more depth.

Parents can really help children to become proficient spellers particularly by ensuring that, when they have spellings to learn at home, that they spend time each day doing so. I have fought for a long time against the old fashioned idea of giving out a list of words to learn simply to be tested on and then forgotten and we assess spellings in a variety of different ways at Ickford. Nonetheless, I have listened to the teachers and they firmly believe that practising spellings at home helps the children to learn them so my task is to encourage you to support this.

There are busy times ahead and some highlights to look forward to, not least the return of the Carducci Quartet on March 8th and of course the aforementioned Big Quiz! Your support is always appreciated and valued.

Mr Ronane



KS1 BISI Badminton Area Winners 2019

Ickford NEWS from the office

Dates for your diary...

14 th March	Class 3 Trip to Ufton Court
18 th March	Class 4 - Echoes Performance
22 nd March	PTA Quiz Night
23 rd March	Waddesdon Cross Country
25 th – 29 th March	Y5&6 Residential
3 rd April 9am	Class 3 Assembly
4 th April 9am	Celebration Assembly
5 th April	Inset Day
23 rd April	Inset Day
24 th April	Summer Term Begins

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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ICKFORD SCHOOL PTA

QUIZ OF THE YEAR

Looking for a different quiz?
Something that's a mix of A Question of Sport; Ask the Family; Screen Test and the Big Fat Quiz of the Year. Then join us at the Ickford School quiz of the year. We'll use film and TV clips, music, sounds and more, to truly test your general knowledge and more.....

Teams of up to 8 people or we can put you in a team on the night.

£8 per person, includes a hot meal and cheese board.

**FRIDAY 22 MARCH - 7PM
ICKFORD VILLAGE HALL**

TO JOIN THE QUIZ OF THE YEAR CONTACT:
BEN.SAYER@HOTMAIL.CO.UK

The poster features a dark background with a stack of colorful books on the right side. A large white question mark is positioned at the top right. The text is in various fonts and colors, including white, blue, and yellow.