

Ickford News

An interesting week and having just come from the Ickford Village church, maybe I should have gone there last Sunday instead. Nonetheless, as the saying goes, these things are sent to try us and the team here keep going.

My reason for attending this morning's church service was to watch the group of children in Year 6 who had volunteered to perform the St Nicholas story, the saint, originally the Bishop of Myra and from where we get Father Christmas and after whom the Church is named. All of the children who took part were excellent. They had put on costumes, learned their lines and spoke in such a way that they could be clearly heard by the whole congregation. They were a credit to their families and their school and I thank them.

In spite of slight disruption to the week, we did ensure that the impact on the children was minimal and although Mme Basnett was unable to accompany them, her class were able to visit Bletchley Park to see where Alan Turing and other agents of the Ultra intelligence project decoded secret messages during the second world war, most notably those that had been encrypted with the German Enigma and Tunny cipher machines. They had a great time and found the experience really interesting. It will, I have



doubt, enrich their understanding of the history topic and hopefully inspire some of them to be historians. Further inspiration may have been garnered by listening to Mr Jones (Megan Yr. 6) who came in to school last Monday and delivered a talk to the children about the Great Wars including memorabilia and local history.



Those not inclined as much to the study of the past, may have been more inspired by the chance they had to take part in a coding workshop at the new FUZE computing centre that has opened in Thame.

I must confess, whilst not entirely a 'Luddite', when faced with the prospect of programming or gaming, I look for the nearest distraction and seek out the warm familiarity of a good book! However, I am old and the children live in an era of rapid development. In a small school like Ickford, where funds are constrained, I am quite proud of how we enable them to use up to date technology and I am hopeful that our connection to this new resource in Thame will facilitate further opportunities for many more children here.

If I am honest, none of the extra-curricular opportunities I have written about, could have happened without the support of parents whether it be, making costumes, coming in to share knowledge, driving children to Thame or the PTA paying for the

coach travel and subsidising the visit to Bletchley. I am incredibly grateful to everyone but must also say a massive 'thank you' to all those who supported our Fundraising Dinner last week.

It was a superb evening of stunning food, good wine and good company and I hope that everyone who attended, enjoyed themselves. I have spoken about Larry, the Chef and his team previously and his generosity has been boundless. However, I cannot thank Jackie Thomas and Stuart (Tank) Stevens enough who as Chair and Vice-Chair of the PTA, organised and set up the whole evening. I know that there were many others who helped, Mrs Arnold, Mrs Shannon, Mr Farrell to name just a few, and Mr and Mrs Merritt the owners of Ignite Sports who donated two cases of Champagne but Jackie and Tank really were phenomenal. Although I do not know the exact figure yet, the dinner and auction may have raised in excess of £10,500! On behalf on the children and staff I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who bought a ticket and bought an auction lot. The staff would also like to say a special thank you to Mr Flood (Zak and Xavi) who bought a coffee machine and proceeded to give it to the teachers!

This busiest of weeks ended on a positive note and a French Café that, in spite of inclement weather, saw lots of parents huddled under gazebos coffee and croissants in hand. It was a conversation with Mr Hawkins (who I also have to thank for donating the school Christmas tree again!) that has prompted my next plan. I would like to give parents a chance to come in to school during the daytime and see the children learning in the classrooms on a normal day. This will take a bit of thought and planning and it will have to be done when all of the new parent show rounds have taken place, but I hope that sometime after Christmas, it can be arranged.

The final note is that we have received several nominations for the role of Parent Governor. As a result, there will be a vote to decide who fills the position. Please watch out for information via parent mail which should make the process clear.

Mr Ronane

Ickford NEWS from the office

Dates for your diary...

5 th December	St Nicholas Play Ickford Church 10am
7 th December	KS1 Nativity 2pm
9 th December	KS1 Nativity 7pm
10 th December	Jar and Christmas Jumper Day
10 th December	Christmas Fayre 5.30-7.30pm
13 th December	KS2 Christmas Carols and Readings - Sports Hall 6pm
14 th December	Christmas Lunch
15 th December	Robin Hood Pantomime
15 th December	Christmas Celebration Assembly 2.30pm

School Lottery

A winner within school every week!

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/lott ery/school/ickford-school>



Breakfast Club

Please remember to book your child's place for breakfast club with the school office by Friday at midday for the following week.

Entry to breakfast club will be via Gate A by the Recreation Ground.



This Week's Celebration Assembly

Hall of Fame:

Music Award:

Teddy Merritt
Georgina Preston
Florianne Palanca
Oliver Jolliffe
Daisy Coke

PE Award:

Darci Turrell

Latin Award:

Darci Turrell

Headteachers Award:

Phoebe Gapper
Oliver Aspden
Harry Middleton
Sophie Winspear
Darci Turrell

Outdoor Learning Initiative:

Henry Preston

Phoebe Gapper
Stella Anzarouth
Megan Jones
Abigail Hird
Ella Cooke
Harry Johnston

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