

# Ickford News

A rather intense three days but enjoyable nonetheless and difficult to explain the sense of relief at having children back in the school. I have managed to have conversations with Bella, Stella and Luna who are all new to Class 1 and to talk tractors and chicken nuggets with Henry (also new) and his sister Georgina. I have been amazed by the new children who find their feet so quickly on the field or playground and overwhelmed by the way all of the children have come back to school with the enthusiasm to learn and the awareness to adapt to the necessary changes that have been put in. This is a great school, it is full and it is going to continue to set the standards other schools should aspire to achieve.

We have managed some socially distanced assembly time by splitting the key stages and this has allowed me to talk to the children about our four values, kindness, honesty, respect and determination which are fundamental to school life and equally important in our lives outside of school. It will be interesting to see not only how quickly the new children in Reception pick up on the values but also the new children in other year groups who have joined the school either this term or during the lock down period.

Most children should be able to tell you that kindness is the value I consider to be the most important. This morning I met with the children in Key Stage 2 and went through our strategies for dealing with adverse behaviour and bullying, what we call the, 'Steps to Stop' and we all agreed that, if we determine to try to be kind to each other and make this a 'purpose' of our life, then we immediately reduce the risk of bullying. I shall be talking to Key

Stage 1 about this next week and introducing the Steps to Stop to the new children so do not be surprised if they practise the strategy at home and you find a hand raised in front of you when they object to something you request! It takes a while for them to work out that the phrase, "Stop it please, I don't like it when you do that and if you keep doing it I shall tell an adult" isn't a magic spell to be used when Mum or Dad asks them to do something!

Thank you to those of you who have donated wood or got in touch about available sources of timber. One of my development objectives this year is to increase and enhance the use of outdoor space and alongside den building, I hope to create a new vegetable garden and a new chicken run so that the children can learn more about where their food comes from and get hands on experience in producing some. We also have plans for map reading and orienteering activities, more camping and hopefully outings to include a working farm. As you can see, I am positive Covid-19 won't hold us back for too long.

There is some way to go but I hope that one day, in the not too distant future, we can open the gates and doors to everyone again for a Celebration Assembly and I really hope that we will be able to have a Nativity this year. We have to be patient and disciplined and not give up hope. The support from parents has been really good throughout lockdown and the phased return (I have even put the complaint to the LADO to the back of my mind!) and I hope you will continue to work in partnership with us in supporting every child.

Have a good weekend

Mr Ronane

# Ickford News from the office

## Dates for your diary...

7 <sup>th</sup> September	Class 4 & 5 Parent Meetings
8 <sup>th</sup> September	Class 1, 2 & 3 Parent Meetings
16 <sup>th</sup> Sept 7.30pm	Reading & Phonics Workshop

## 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/lottery/school/ickford-school>



## Breakfast Club

Please remember to book your child's place for breakfast club with the school office.

Entry to breakfast club will be via **Gate A** by the Recreation Ground. Please let your child come in independently.

## Road Closure

Please allow extra time to get to school on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September, the road

between Worminghall and Ickford will be closed from 7am – 6pm. There may also be road closure or delays in Bridge Road coming up for Tiddington so allow plenty of time for your journey.

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