

Ickford News

A day of metaphor and personification; the biting cold and bitter wind seem to have gnawed into my bones during Netball club and I am struggling to tap the keyboard. In spite of feeling very aware of my age, I am delighted to welcome everyone back to a new term and a new year and hope it will be a good one. We have had a three day intro this week so, not a great deal to report but a chance perhaps to flag up some things to remember and to ensure a good start.

Covid-19

Covid is, as I have no doubt we are all aware, still a real issue in schools and the information seems to be changing on a daily basis. I am trying to keep up with the advice and changes but it is important to remember that we have vulnerable pupils here and staff members that I must do my best to protect. Therefore, we must all work together to maintain the good hygiene practices that are crucial to preventing the spread of the virus as well as being honest with ourselves and others regarding testing and symptoms.

We are beginning to see evidence of the impact the pandemic may have had on children's attainment and I have spoken with teachers this week about the importance of using tracking data effectively to identify children who may need further support. You should have received a letter today with your child's current grading in Reading, Writing and Maths which will, for some, be a catalyst for a meeting with a teacher. Please take advantage of meeting with a teacher if you need to. Working with parents is important particularly if there are things that can be done at home to support learning in the classroom. I shall certainly be looking at the data and ensuring that we do all that we can to maintain and where possible improve on our high standards.

Uniform

This morning I picked up 7 pieces of uniform that I found dropped around the school (only 2 days in) and tried to reunite them with their owners. Sadly, I couldn't do this because six of the items had no name label and one had the name of a child no longer on our role. The lost property box is overflowing and, if things are not claimed then it will have to be emptied into the clothing bin. I would be really grateful if you could check your children's belongings and make sure they have a clear and current name in them.

Collecting from School

As you are aware, the end of the day is busy and the gates can become congested making it difficult for teachers to identify parents. In the interests of safety, I have asked teachers not to let children go until they have seen the person listed as collecting rather than simply being told by a child that they can, "see my mum/nan/dad etc". Please can you ensure you at least make eye contact with the class teacher at pick up times and that the office is clear about who is collecting or whether the child attends a club or takes the school bus.

Badminton Rackets

We have asked children who bring in their own Badminton rackets to use in Breakfast club or during breaks and PE, to leave them in the sports hall instead of having them in bags in the classroom as they tend to stick out and create a hazard in the confined cloakroom spaces. Lots of children like to have their own racket but it would really help if you could please permit your children to leave their rackets in school during the week rather than take them home on a daily basis. If they can't we have plenty of rackets here that can be used.

Rather business like this week but hopefully more to celebrate after next week.

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