

Ickford News

Before regaling you with tales from the distant shores of the Isle of Wight, I must acknowledge the supreme efforts of Miss Vukomanovic, Mrs Honey and the rest of Team Ickford who not only, 'held the fort' but seemingly converted the school in to one resplendent with maidens, knights and dragons, in my absence. In order for both Mme Basnett and I to be away from school, we need others to step up and, being able to leave the school in such safe hands is a testament to the leadership capabilities of everyone here.

There was something rather uplifting about being away with the children in Years 5 and 6, possibly because the last time we were away was in March 2020 which marked the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic and saw us forced to come home early. Additionally, there have also been some difficult times for me both professionally and personally and to be back doing what I love with all its responsibility was a great feeling. The team around the children on the Isle of Wight were fabulous and showed a great deal of love and affection as well as the necessary leadership needed to ensure that the children were safe, happy (I hope) and getting as much as possible from the trip.

Thankfully, the weather was good for most of the week and, although bitterly cold at times, it only rained on the final day. The children were able to 'test their mettle' abseiling, climbing, leaping into the abyss and careering along a zip wire as well as exercising their cerebral powers in low rope and problem-solving challenges. Each day meant a full, time table punctuated by visits to the canteen that provided a fabulous menu and service with a smile. I have no doubt that

everyone was happy to get back home but I must confess I shall miss the three meals a day!

As always, the Ickford children were superbly behaved and a pleasure to spend the week with. They were kind and caring towards each other and full of encouragement and support when members of their groups were challenged. We also had the pleasure of the disco on the final evening where some cut some serious moves and, much to the delight of all the staff, Rick Astley's two younger brothers made an appearance (see below).



There are more photographs on the school website and I hope to add to the gallery in the next few days.

We had fun and, as always, we laughed a great deal. Ben Readman's use of descriptive language on the giant swing and reference to parts of his body best left to the imagination, sticks in the memory! As does most things the wonderful Mrs Snail did during the week but, as we say in Rugby circles, "what goes on tour, stays on tour!"



I think there is immense value in taking the children away and usually we would be planning to go to France next year. The rising costs of travel and accommodation may threaten school residential trips and we will have to sit down and look at whether we can realistically ask parents to support these ventures. Hopefully, we can talk about cost versus value and come up with some creative ways to ensure we maintain the tradition.

As much as I enjoyed being away, it was good to be back in school this week trying to catch up. Team Ickford may have ensured a smooth Medieval Week but they didn't take on the paper work!

Aside from the 'proper' job I have been back at the Breakfast Club helm now that Miss Edmans has moved on to different pastures. It is great to see so many children coming along in the morning as it makes for a positive start to the day and enables all age groups to mix and have fun together. It does provide a service for parents who need to drop their children off early and at a very reasonable cost of £2 per session. My only request is that you book and pay online prior to sending the children in as this makes life much easier for Mrs Rhodes.

The outdoor learning initiative continued this week and, judging by the smiling faces and the mud in the hall, the children really

enjoyed the challenge of creating natural alphabets.



Although it went well, Mrs Honey and her team were frustrated by the number of children who did not have wellington boots in school or appropriate clothing such as coats and track suit bottoms for working outside. Both she and Mrs Rhodes have asked that I point this out in the newsletter and remind parents to support this. I have to add that we are a school with a uniform and that includes a PE kit. Every child should have a hoodie and bottoms as part of this.

Our sporting success has continued in my absence and on my return. Last week, the Year 3 and 4 Netball teams had a league match against Oakley and, despite losing some players to Covid, managed fantastic wins in all four matches resulting in an overall score of 54 – 7. Their league table reads, played 4 won 4 with 166 goals for and 41 against. There are games against each school so that is a total of 16 games undefeated!

Our Year 5/6 team took up the invite from John Hampden School in Thame for two fixtures, home and away. We travelled the short distance to John Hampden to be welcomed by a rather large squad of players before playing, proper 7 a side Netball over 4 quarters. Despite the proliferation of players, the opposition were not able to get past strong defensive

play by Ickford and succumbed to some fast, slick attacking play. The match finished with Ickford winners by 56 – 0. Credit is due to John Hampden for not giving up but I am not sure they will be honouring the second fixture here.

Dylan O’Mahoney was the Player of the Match for Year 3/4 and Harry Johnson for Year 5/6. The older team have two important league fixtures next week and I am hoping that the Year 3/4 children, having won their league, will get a chance to play the winners of the other league in Buckinghamshire.

Finally, I want to thank everyone for supporting our small gestures of support for the people of Ukraine. The amount of clothing, toys, food and other goods sent in was overwhelming and I was very grateful to every teacher and Mrs Rhodes for providing the convoy in the pouring rain on Wednesday evening to deliver everything to the collection point. The French Café before the Celebration Assembly on Friday morning was also a great success and we raised over £350 which will go towards helping families from the Ukraine. Takings were certainly increased by the offer of hot sausage rolls provided by Mrs Kerry and I want to thank her, Mr Ellis and Mrs Pentecost for their considerable help in making the café a success. Anything that keep Mme Basnett happy is wonderful for me!

Have a good weekend. Mr Ronane



News from the Office

31 st March	Outdoor Learning
7 th April	Last Day of Term
24 th June	Key Stage 2 Summer Concert

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>



This Week’s Celebration Assembly

Hall of Fame:

Music Award:

Freya Weeden

Asiya Hassine

PE Award:

Ruby Dighton

Charlie Kendall

Babs Smith

Harry Weeden

Asees Samrai

Sophie Pennock

Brayden O’Malley

Rose Dighton

French Award:

Finn Rouse

Bryony Ellis

Emily Coxon

Aiden Barnes

Emily-Jay Friday

Amber Chadbone

Tiana Mose-Dixon

Latin Award:

Chloe Makris

Headteachers Award:

George Middleton

Emily Coxon

Oisin Harrell

James Harris

Chloe Betteley

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