

# Ickford News

The DfE are currently making data collections about school attendance and as we move from “pandemic to epidemic” (their phrase not mine) putting in new directives about ensuring full school attendance.

When I go to external meetings, I am often asked about school how we tackle poor attendance and what I think are the solutions (slightly ironic as my attendance at external meetings is very poor!) and my first response is always, “make being in school worthwhile”. By worthwhile, I mean valuable in terms of education and in developing socially and, although I want every child to enjoy school, I am not naïve to think that they do, all day every day. Making school fun all of the time could actually be quite easy (up to a point) but not necessarily what children need nor, I hope, what parents want.

At Ickford we try to make every day valuable in terms of learning, therefore, it is great teaching that is the most important thing we can provide. We have excellent teachers and their absence is acutely felt because they are at the heart of everything we do. Covid has been cruel and we are still dealing with the challenges on a daily basis but, putting Covid to one side, we shall still be paying rigorous attention to attendance as we always have done.

One of our strengths, in my opinion, is our effort to offer a broad curriculum and I was interested to read the Parentmail from Mrs Honey this week about the donations to the Outdoor Learning programme. Although it did suggest that I was the ‘bad guy’ about to stop the project, I think she was right to make public the fact that the contributions this term were really low particularly when

she only asks for £1. We have already had some really generous offers of financial support but that is not really the point here. It ties in with the plea for people to pay for Breakfast Club and after-school clubs, they are small amounts but when added together they make a great deal of difference. If everyone chips in we don’t need to rely on the generosity of individuals.

I do try to subsidise everything we do and please do not forget that we have a small, ‘hardship fund’ to help support any family that genuinely has difficulty paying for school related items whether it be uniform, trips, clubs or outdoor learning. If this is the case than contact me directly and, rest assured, any application will be treated in absolute confidence.

Whilst on the subject of things parents can really support in, I just want to flag up reading at home. We have very good support and reading records show that there is a tremendous effort to ensure that each child is supported with their reading at home whether it be, someone listening to them read or providing quality books for them and ensuring that they read independently each day. I recognise that it is possible to sign the reading record when a child may not have actually read (it is an argument proffered by those who disagree with our policy) but this is a system based on trust and I am confident that parents recognise the importance of reading and I trust them to support us.

As I said, the absence of a teacher is acutely felt and none more so than Mme who got caught by Covid last week along with Miss Basnett one of our Teaching Assistants. Nonetheless, the team pulled together, the children in Year 6 were wonderful and lots was achieved. The school pond was one of the highlights for the children because the sunshine

appears to have encouraged the abundant population of amorous amphibians (stunning use of alliteration!) into activity. It was great to see children at the pond listening to a genuine 'frog chorus' and able to witness life cycles in action.

Thankfully, hand washing is a strong point because on Friday the corridors were filled with the gorgeous smell of baking when the children in classes 1 and 2 combined learning maths with 'Bake Off'. Cookies with chocolate chips were produced in large amounts. At least, I think (hope) they were chocolate chips.

Finally, another report of success for the Yr. 5/6 Netball team who played two league matches during the week on eat Haddenham School and the other at Cuddington and Dinton. After beating Haddenham by lots on Wednesday, the game on Friday at Dinton became a significant one as they were also unbeaten in the league. This was a game we had to win and I am delighted to report that the team gave their best performance of the season and won convincingly by 29 – 1 with Daisy Coke voted Player of the Match. They are now top of the league with a very convincing record of no losses and 161 goals for and 9 against! They work hard and they play hard but always with great humility and devoid of arrogance. This is a trait of all Ickford teams and another strength of our school.

Enjoy the sunshine.

Mr Ronane

## News from the Office

### Dates for your diary...

7 <sup>th</sup> April	Outdoor Learning
7 <sup>th</sup> April	Last Day of Term
24 <sup>th</sup> 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:

Ethan Crispin  
Isabella Saunders  
Phoebe Merritt  
Phoebe Boardman  
Tiana Mose-Dixon

#### PE Award:

Molly Parry  
Babs Smith  
Barnaby Potter  
Thomas Betteley

Dylan O'Mahoney

Orla Kerry

Harley Hudson

Lucas Jayasekara

Isla Turrell

**French Award:**

**Latin Award:**

Harry Johnston

**Headteachers Award:**

Ethan Crispin

Annabel Neal

Harry Weeden

Sam Pierpoint

Harry Johnston

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