

Ickford News

Listening to Radio 4 yesterday morning (sure sign of old age) I heard a commentary about schools. Secondary schools, it said, were changing their curriculums to suit a modern world whilst Primary Schools would always be about tadpoles and mustard cress. Thankfully, it was a comedy news programme rather than an actual news item but sometimes I have a feeling that this may not be far from the perception of Primary education some have. Not that I want to eliminate tadpoles and cress from the classroom, far from it! In fact, we continually look for ways to enhance the curriculum with opportunities to engage in the natural world but, at Ickford, there is so much more.

Take for example class 5 who, on Thursday, were fortunate to have Dr Mariam Latif-Younis (Mother of Melek Class 2) come in and talk to them about Islam and being a Muslim in the UK today. It was absolutely fascinating and it gave the children the opportunity to ask lots of questions. It was particularly relevant as the period of Ramadan began this weekend (governed by the Luna cycle and determined by the crescent moon being present in the Saudi Arabian night sky) and I am proud that Class 5 are a group of enlightened young people unafraid to have opinions and confident enough to ask questions. Mariam's presentation was excellent and the boys and girls enjoyed her company immensely. Lessons like this not only give the children knowledge but also help them to think about their own lives and what impact they want to have on the world.

Earlier in the week, I organised the House Rackets competition and used the PE lessons so that every child present, could take part. We have some very competitive and indeed very competent players, some of whom have been honing their skills in Breakfast Club from the age of 5, but being a house format, it is the overall team that counts rather than the performance of individuals. What struck me this year was how much those 'talented' players supported and encouraged others and how they celebrated any successes of players who perhaps had not played a great deal. Being a talented individual is a bonus but, talent without humility is not a desirable trait.

I love Rugby and would confess to having met many of my friends through playing the great game. However, much to the amusement of some of my hard-nosed, burly associates, I coach Netball and for me, it is the ultimate team sport. You have restricted space and movement and only two people can score goals. Therefore, unless you work as a team, you do not win matches. Furthermore, in Rugby or Football, you can hold on to the ball or move with it, take time to make a pass or accept the contact rather than give up the ball but, in Netball you have just three seconds to make a decision and use that ball, trust me, it is not a game for the feint hearted.

So, I want to unashamedly dedicate some page space to our KS2 team who, having won their area league, play in the County Finals tomorrow. I have no doubt that some of these children will continue to play sport (not necessarily Netball) and at a high level. I am sure they will win competitions that may mean much more to them and to a wider audience but, some may not pursue competitive sport and this may be their 'day in the sun' so I want to ensure that it is a memorable one. Those disinterested in sport, fast forward to the later pages.



The Dream Team

Who would have thought that these smiling faces would come so far? Sorry team, I couldn't resist the pictures! It does not matter whether you win or lose tomorrow, the achievement is in getting there and you have managed to do this with great style and by playing some excellent Netball. You have put in the hard work, now it is time for you to enjoy playing the game with your friends. I am very proud of you all. Go Ickford!

Some of the most observant and sharp eyed amongst you may have noticed that my office has been repositioned. Don't worry if you haven't, it's still in school! This is part of a plan we have to add an extra classroom space for September so that we can reduce the size of teaching groups and make best use of the additional teacher we will have in school. The aim is to teach the KS2 year groups in their discreet age groups for some lessons so as to make it easier for the teachers to plan, assess, teach and to give their attention to those who may need support. In doing so, I am confident that we can start to make up some of the ground lost to Covid and the disruptive impact it has had on progress. The PTA are supporting this plan and helping to fund some of the alterations needed to make it possible. Attached with this newsletter is a flier promoting a fund-raising event taking place on April 24th when Larry Jayasekera, our resident Michelin starred Chef will be creating beautiful 'street food' from a 'pop up' stall in school. Alongside this, we will be selling 'craft cocktails' and setting out a few tables so that you can come and enjoy a mojito or too whilst sharing your Easter Holiday snaps with other parents! Alternatively, you can just grab your arancini balls and run for it!

Running for it but empty handed is an actuality for Mrs Holliday (Beatrix class 3) who has set herself the target of raising £500 for the school by, taking on not one but two, 100km Ultra walking challenges in May and June, one walking London to Brighton [Ultra challenge L2B](#) and one walking part of the Cotswold Way [Ultra challenge Cotswolds](#). This is an amazingly generous thing to do as well as rather tough so I am sure she would welcome any support you can give. I don't want to say too much about her fundraising page because what she has written is very humbling and very much appreciated but I would urge you to follow the link and, if possible, throw something in to the pot.

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/rosie-holliday-ickfordschool?utm_term=4WxXvqQKg

Finally, massive thanks to Mr Hitchcock (Iyla Class 4) for mending the roof of our PE storage. It had been badly damaged in the recent storm and he volunteered his services instantly. We are all very grateful.

Have a good weekend.

Mr Ronane

News from the Office

Dates for your diary...

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 7 th April | Outdoor Learning |
| 7 th April | Last Day of Term |
| 7 th April | Celebration Assembly |
| April 24 th | Street Food Pop Up 12 pm – 4 -pm |
| 24 th June | Key Stage 2 Summer Concert |

This Week's Celebration Assembly

Hall of Fame:

Music Award:

George Middleton

Jacob Shannon

Lucy Hird

Abigail Hird

Megan Jones

PE Award:

Teddy Merritt

Xavi Flood

Anabel Stevens

Babs Smith

Mia Makris

Isla Thomas

Jack Turner

Phoebe Boardman

Louis Raeburn

Nathaniel Wakelin

Chloe Parsler

French Award:

Caleb Mortimer

Asiya Hassine

Edward Nicholls

Jackson Marriott

Asees Samrai

Abigail Hird

Amber Chadbone

Deutsch:

William Arnold

Latin Award:

Matilda Stow

Headteachers Award:

Molly Parry

Timothy Issitt

Lucy Hird

Emily Aspden

Nathaniel Wakelin

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>



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