

Ickford News

I may have to write to her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and ask forgiveness because the children have started half term and I am not sure we generated enough excitement in school about the Platinum Jubilee. I am sure most will know about it and many of you will be attending street parties or various local celebratory events and I think the main celebrations take place next weekend so hopefully, I can catch up on the Monday we return and ensure that the children know, we do recognise this significant event in the history of the country. Every child has been given a special book to mark the occasion although we did not receive our full amount and, until we can take delivery of a few more, we have had to limit copies to one per family in some instances.

We may have neglected the Queen but it was in the name of Science so I am sure she won't mind. It has been an exciting week, jam packed with activities relating to this year's Science Week theme, Water and it would appear that every child has enjoyed themselves and learned many things. This year, Mrs Honey excelled in ensuring that we not only had science experiments but also a number of challenges involving engineering an area that, if we had the resources and finance, I would really like to develop in our curriculum.

It has been great to hear children talking to each other about Science and to see them so visibly inspired about activities in the classroom. When I had the opportunity to get into lessons I witnessed, 'walking rainbows' which enabled the children to see, in full colour, how nature balances itself and the creation of flowers using the science of chromatography. The children also did experiments which helped them to learn about the polarity of water, water stratification and the concentration gradient, topics that I only heard of when I got to secondary school. They also made water clocks, tested their engineering skills in designing rafts and boats that could carry loads, as well as manufacturing bath bombs which left a distinct fragrance lingering in the classrooms and corridors that brought back memories of childhood Christmas presents for Mum (who remembers bath cubes from Woolworths?).

The highlight of the week though was probably the trip to the Think Tank which, thanks to the team and the superb behaviour of the children, went without hitch and was enjoyed by all. It may not be as big or as well known as the Science Museum in London but in terms of interactive exhibits, the Think Tank wins.

I am hopeful we can get some pictures up on the website in the next couple of days as there was too much for me to remember and mention here. Displayed on several floors there were exhibits that looked at early scientific developments from the past and took us through a journey to the world today and then into the world of the future. It was fascinating to see the children engaged in dressing up as World War II fighter pilots under two huge Spitfires and relating it to their studies in school and then watching others in conversation with a human sized robot who could show emotions, impersonate famous people and sing all the songs from the Sound of Music!

It was a great shame that not every child could take part in this trip due to the large numbers who were absent from school due to illness. I must admit that absence does concern me and, although a day or two sick is unavoidable, some children's somewhat irregular attendance throughout a year is certainly having an impact on their progress. Our

overall school attendance percentage is much lower than we have experienced in the past decade and significantly lower in a large number of pupils. Absence, unauthorised or not has a negative impact on everyone and is something that we cannot ignore at all. After half term, addressing this will be a priority.

Hopefully, the weather will be good for next week and the children can get outside and be healthy. When we return it will be the final half term and with so much going on, I am sure the days will seem to fly past. As anyone who has been with us for a while will know, we do not practise, 'wind down' weeks or days and we shall keep teaching and learning right up to 3.30 on the final day of term. I am looking forward to the many events coming up and I know that Jackie, Tank and the PTA will be hoping for support with events they are involved in.

Finally, a special mention for Edward Nicholls (Year 2) who competed, representing Ickford School, in an event organised by the British Schools Cycling association. Edward competed in the U7 category and won (quite convincingly) all three events - a timed lap, a sprint race and a group race. He has a national event on 11th June, so fingers crossed for an Ickford national champion!

Enjoy the week, Mr Ronane

News from the Office

Dates for your diary...

19 th May	Outdoor Learning
20 th May	French Cafe
23 rd – 27 th May	Science Week
24 th May	Think Tank
30 th May	Half Term
24 th June	Key Stage 2 Summer Concert
29 th June	Secondary Transfer Meeting -Year 5
8 th July	Summer Fayre
14 th July	Sports Day - Horspath
18 th July	School Play Class 4 and 5
19 th July	School Play Class 4 and 5

20 th July	Final Celebration Assembly
21 st July	Leavers' Assembly
21 st July	Last Day of Term

Mrs Holliday (Beatrix Year 3) is walking



100km to raise money for the school and you can donate via her just giving page:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/ro-sie-holliday-ickfordschool?utm_term=D2YeEP4DY

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>



Sponsors



**TIDDINGTON
GARAGE**

