

Ickford News

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store? Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find Thee sitting careless on a granary floor, thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind; Or on a half-reap' d furrow sound asleep.

These lines from John Keats' ode, 'To Autumn', are etched in my memory. Not just because it is a beautiful poem and what better time to mention it than on the first day of the season, but mainly because when I was at Secondary School, they were 'the line' (note not the lines) that we miscreants had to write out 50 or 100 times when we challenged the authority of a tyrannical, pubescent prefect.

I was quite surprised when I started teaching that the sanction for misbehaviour in my first school was to write a 'behaviour sheet' and grateful that on becoming the English lead, I could convince the powers at be that, writing as a punishment, was not going to motivate any child to see it as a pleasure!

'To Autumn' is a wonderful poem and will be the poem on each classroom door this half term. I do this because it's important to expose the children to quality written word and I know that many will challenge themselves to learn parts or maybe even the whole poem by heart.

This week, as part of our ongoing professional development and determination to improve and evolve, the teachers and I spent some hours looking at the teaching of poetry and its part in our curriculum. There are many reasons why it is important that we do not neglect poetry as a genre of English including; it develops language, creative thinking, public speaking and also emotional intelligence. I worry that poetry is not always seen as 'real' writing or is thought of as too 'old fashioned' to be relevant to children and young people today when actually it has real value as an accessible form of writing for every child.

Indeed, it is often 'sold' to children as writing where the rules can be broken and that can be really appealing! However, rules can only be broken when one understands what it is to be correct. Hopefully, our session has motivated the teachers to look at some new ideas for teaching poetry which will in turn inspire the children to read, write and recite more poetry in various forms. I would encourage you to share some poetry with your children when you can or maybe try writing limericks or haiku or even some rap together. It can be fun!

Mme Basnett was never called crude,
Or considered deliberately rude,
Until the day she was found
In a heap on the ground
And confessed that she slept in the ...

(smallest room in the house)

My apologies to anyone expecting a French Café this morning, my error was pointed out to me by Mme Basnett and it was explained that it will take place next week to coincide with the Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning events taking place nationally on September 30th. It will be good to see lots of people there and to see faces at the Celebration Assembly afterwards.

Have a good weekend, Mr Ronane

News from the Office

Dates for your diary...

23 rd September	Return of Celebration Assembly
6 th October	Hampton Court Trip Class 4
21 st October	Last Day of Term

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:

German Award: Harley Hudson

French Awards: Oliver Evemy, Lucy Hird, Beau Marriott, Benjamin Herratt, Gwilym Walters

Latin Award: Abigail Hird

PE Awards: Lucy Hird, Ethan Crispin, Charlotte Hunting, Brayden O'Malley, Isla Thomas, Eliza Gapper, Florence Arnold, Harrison O'Mahoney, Harry Middleton

Headteachers Awards: Alex Nicholls, Oliver Evemy, Lucy Hird, Faye Kitchen, Phoebe Boardman,

Faye Kitchen is competing in a Children's Tough Mudder this weekend to raise money for Thomley. Let's help her raise her target!

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/kitchenfamilyfundraiser>



[Thomley Hall Centre](#)

Thomley is a place for people of all abilities and disabilities. We provide an exciting site for disabled people, their families, carers and friends. Each year we receive over 15,000 visits from disabled people, their family and the wider community. With your help, we can support even more.

Charity Registration No. 1089224

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