

Ickford News

The 'ooh la la' returned to Ickford this morning with our first French Café of the year. I feel rather intimidated amongst a crowd, but I do like café mornings and, although they may only have tenuous links to the land of l'escargot and fine wine, I really enjoy watching everyone get together if only for a quick chat and a coffee. Mme Basnett, radiates that 'joie de vivre' that us lesser mortals can only hope for and her infectious enthusiasm lights up any damp and gloomy Friday morning.

Thursday evening was lit up by the AGM of the PTA committee and I am really pleased to hear that Jackie Thomas has been re-elected as Chair, with Stuart (Tank) Stevens also re-elected as her Deputy. I am confident that in their safe hands and with the other committee members (sorry not had full list yet) the PTA can continue the sterling work of last year and help to ensure we maintain a strong sense of community as well as raise funds for the children. The date of October 14th has been earmarked for the first, film night of this year, so keep an eye open for more news on this so you do not miss an opportunity to be child free for a couple of hours on a Friday evening!

Last Monday, we held a meeting for those parents, particularly with children in the Early Years, who wanted to find out more about the way in which we teach phonics and how this feeds into our development of readers in the school. It was good to see so many at the meeting because things have changed this year and we have moved to a new reading scheme for our youngest children. Those of you who have been part of Ickford for any length of time may resent the fact that the 'Jolly Phonics' actions have been dropped as a strategy to help children and this year's group did not have to suffer the indignity of making aeroplane actions, donkey ears or crawling ants up their arms whilst they struggled to remember the associated letter sound (phoneme)!

My part in the meeting was really about emphasising the importance of reading and of parental engagement in the process. It was not just supporting learning to read that I advocate but also the pleasure and gift of reading to and with children. Some of points I tried to get across are encapsulated in the following sentences; Reading to a child is one of the greatest gifts parents can give. By starting the journey of building a lifelong love of reading for pleasure, parents are giving their child the opportunity to be the best they can be: children who read for pleasure do better in a wide range of subjects at school and it also positively impacts children's wellbeing.

If nothing else, reading provides an opportunity for 'back and forth' conversations. A book shared, whether it be fiction or non-fiction is a stimulus for talking and a source of burgeoning vocabulary. Our language defines us and the 'limits of our language, are the limits of our world'. We have a moral imperative to broaden these limits for our children particularly the most disadvantaged. As you may have gathered, I am making it a bit of a mission this year to ensure that we don't lose sight of the importance of books. As the Cat in the Hat said, "The more that you read the more you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you will go."

Have a good weekend.

Mr Ronane

News from the Office

Dates for your diary...

6 th October	Hampton Court Trip Class 5
11 th October	Harvest Festival
13 th October	Outdoor Learning
17 th & 19 th October	Parents Evening

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:

French Award:

Charlie Kendall, Elizabeth Smith, Finlay Bennett, Anna Roberts, Amelia Hargreaves, Emily Coxon, Harry Weedon, Sophie Winspear, Charlie Kendal, Elizabeth Smith, Finlay Bennett, Anna Roberts, Amelia Hargreaves, Emily Coxon, Harry Weeden, Sophie Winspear

PE Award:

Jago Miller, Ella Cooke, Jackson Marriot, Jacob Dungey, Eliza Gapper, Issy Parsler, Oisin Harrell, Zeynep Konak, Ella-Rose Cantwell-Wilkinson, Izzy Saunders, Anna Roberts

Music Award:

Freya Weeden, Caleb Mortimer, Lucy Hird. Orla Kerry, Amelia Hargreaves

Latin Award:

Headteachers Award:

Iyla Hitchcock, Xavier Flood, Ella Cooke, Beatrix Walters, Freya Weeden,

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