

Ickford News

Although we are a non-denominational school, I have tried to maintain a relationship with St Nicholas' Church in the village and to support it when we can. It is, like so many of the local churches, a beautiful building but I am not sure if the services are particularly well attended nowadays or whether the Church of England is in decline in these rural areas. Nonetheless, we do our bit and the building is certainly most 'alive' when filled by the school on the occasion of the Harvest Festival. Unfortunately, a clamp down on numbers due to health and safety has meant that events in the Church are restrictive in terms of who can attend and, having already moved the Carol Service to school, I am not sure how long we shall be able to continue using it as a venue. Thank you to all the parents who came and were understanding of the predicament about one person per family, I hope that you enjoyed the singing and the readings. In my opinion, the children were fantastic in terms of singing, reading and behaviour and it was a pleasure to be there.

State funded schools in England including academies such as Ickford, are bound by legislation to teach a religious education curriculum and to adhere to the following statement:

Syllabuses used in schools (maintained or academy), which are not designated with a religious character must 'reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain'.

We try to do our best and to suit the needs of the community and our social context. It is a challenge because the notion of 'faith' is an alien concept to many children and possibly staff and religion can be a very divisive subject if not taught with sensitivity and objectiveness. At the moment, I am teaching Class 5 about Islam and the Muslim faith and I know that in other year groups the children learn about a variety of different religions. My intention is that the children will develop into understanding and tolerant people who can respect and accept difference and have informed, personal opinions that do not cause offence or promote prejudice.

We try to enhance the curriculum with visits and visitors so I am particularly grateful that one of our Trustees, also a parent and a particularly talented one at that, came in to talk to the children this week. Mrs Aspden (Emily and Oliver), or rather Dr Aspden came in to talk to the children in Class 4 about the human skeleton. Not only is she a 'medical doctor, she also happens to be a Professor of Neurophysiology at Oxford and came equipped with a selection of real bones and skeletons for the children to handle and ask questions about. Thankfully, her previous experience meant she was well equipped to deal with the enquiring minds of Class 4 (and Class 5 as Mme Basnett was not going to pass up an opportunity) and answered all of the many questions with ease. If anyone out there has a hobby, skill or profession that may be of interest to the children then please step forward, you are always welcome to come in.

I shall sign off now and venture into the hall to see how 'Film Night' is going. If it is peaceful and full of children engrossed in the film, I may grab a bag of popcorn and plonk myself on a bean bag. If it's pandemonium...I am out of here and leaving it to the PTA!

Have a good weekend.

Mr Ronane

This Week's Celebration Assembly Hall of Fame:

French Award:

Phoebe Boardman, Abigail Hird, Oliver Atkins, Charlotte Hunting, Asees Samrai, Edward Pentecost, Jack Turner

PE Award:

Lizzy Landragan, Harry Jolliffe, Ronin Reeve, Charlotte Hunting, Oliver Aspden, Andrew Robinson, Emily Aspden, Iyla Hitchcock, Sam Pierpoint, James Kendall.

Music Award:

Freddy Dedman, Stella Anzarouth, Anabel Stevens, Zak Flood, Gwilym Walters,

Latin Award:

Sophie Winspear

Headteachers Award:

Sophie Vorotyntsova, Isla Thomas, Isabelle Parsler, William Jones, Caleb Mortimer,

News from the Office

Please ensure that any **changes to going home arrangements** are with the school office, by email to office@ickford.org.uk, **by 2pm** each day.

If you are yet to **book clubs** for next term, please do so by **20th October 2022**

Lost Property – There is a large box in Reception. Please come to claim your lost property. Any unclaimed will be put in the clothes bin next Friday 21st October

You can now find all events and terms dates, including Inset Days, on our website www.ickford.org.uk in the Events section.

17 th & 19 th October	Parents Evening
21 st October	French Café
1 st November	School Photos
7 th November	Class 5 Trip to Bletchley Park

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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