

Ickford News

Congratulations to everyone on reaching the end of the first half term (including me) there will be a few tired children at home this weekend and no doubt a few tired teachers. The weeks have flown past but the energy levels around the place have been high and a great deal has been achieved.

The first Parent evenings of a year are very important and I am led to believe that almost every parent attended. It is good to hear about progress but also imperative that parents are aware of any support that may be needed from home, whether that be with learning or behaviour.

I have shown more prospective parents around the school this week and although I prefer to meet parents individually, due to the number of requests, I have had to resort to groups. Nevertheless, the message remains the same, "Where you live is not of great interest, we start at 9.00 am each day and expect children to be here, we have a simple uniform and expect them to wear it and do not take holidays during term time." This mantra has remained pretty much unchanged since the day I arrived and has served our school well.

There are a couple of things I am going to add however, as well as ensuring they are included in the 'letter for prospective parents' on our website. The letter was something published during the Covid pandemic when we were unable to invite prospective parents in to school to look around and I have kept it on the website as I think it is a useful way of saving time. I am going to add that we would like children to be able to use the lavatory independently and properly before starting school and be able to take their coats off and put them on. I am not a fan of the, 'lay the coat on the floor and fling it over your head' technique that appears to be taught in some pre-schools as we risk children being injured by flying coats and I do think parents could afford some time to teach these basic skills.

It was brought to my attention this week that we have several parents who now have children that are in school who were part of the 'Covid' group and therefore have not actually been shown around the school. I am more than happy to show around anyone for whom this is the case. All that is needed is to book a time with the office.

Someone who did manage a tour this week as well as a decent conversation, was Catherine Turton the Department for Education's South East Regional Lead for Academies and a lady of significant importance. I know from experience that people in such DfE positions are not able to give much away when they visit a school or to give any personal opinions in case a school 'quotes' them. However, as Catherine wrote the following, I feel justified in sharing it with you:

"It was fantastic to see the progress the children are making in real time and to meet your wonderful children – they are a credit to the school and frankly give me hope for the future."

This is praise indeed and I share her hope for the future because we have great children being taught by a great team in a caring, purposeful and professional environment.

Have a good half term.

Mr Ronane

PTA News

The PTA that I thank everyone who helped to make last Friday's Film Night such a great success. I hope all of the children enjoyed themselves as much as some of the Barflies I bumped into on my way to the Sports Hall!

The next great event is strictly for adults only and on November the 19th Ickford Village Hall become the venue for a Masquerade Ball beginning at 7.30 pm and ending when the last masked man or woman is standing!

Champagne, shots and canapés are promised and a DJ will be doing whatever DJ's do nowadays. All you have to do is purchase a ticket and wear a mask.

My advice is that you might want to wear more than a mask as it gets quite cold in Ickford at that time in November!

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