

# Ickford News

At the eleventh hour on this, the eleventh day, we, our whole school, stood in silence and remembered them. The youngest children may not yet understand and, I daresay they possibly imagined it was a fire drill without the alarm, but our older children do, I believe, recognise the significance of maintaining the tradition of reciting 'In Flanders Fields' and respecting one minute's silence for the those who gave their lives in conflict so that we may live in freedom.

In fact, I know that the eldest children understand because I had the pleasure of joining class 5 for their trip to Bletchley Park on Monday and their knowledge of World War I and II is very good indeed. Bletchley is a fascinating place and I learned a great deal myself about the lives of the code breakers and fascinating and crucial work that they did deciphering the encrypted messages of Nazi Germany and Hitler's war machine.

Obviously, many people will have heard of Alan Turing and associate him the most with cracking the Enigma codes but the visit highlighted the fact that he was part of a vast team of people all working under a veil of secrecy throughout the war. One of the most poignant discoveries for me was the fact that nobody employed at Bletchley Park could talk about what they were doing or had done. Such was the level of security and adherence to the Official Secrets Act that, even partners or siblings working at Bletchley, could not share what work they did between each other and it was not until almost 30 years after the war in 1974 when the veil was lifted and what took place at Bletchley could be revealed.

The children really enjoyed looking inside the 'huts' where the code breakers worked and walking around the interactive museum but they were most enthusiastic when, during a workshop, they had the chance to decipher coded messages themselves. I struggle reading a text message so took the opportunity to browse the book shop!

On Thursday we took part in our first sporting event of the year when a team of children in Year 5 and 6 took part in the Wheatly Sports Partnership Netball competition. It was disappointing to be told at the beginning that two schools had withdrawn leaving the event rather bereft of teams and forcing us to play each of the remaining two schools twice albeit in longer matches.

I recognise that the children playing for Ickford can carry the weight of expectation when it comes to playing Netball and the bar set by previous teams is certainly high. Nonetheless, the children enjoy the challenge and certainly rose to it. Undefeated in all matches and no goals conceded is a good start to the year and, if we can build on this, the prospects for the Bucks leagues look good.

My call for Engineers last week was rewarded and I have spoken to several willing to offer advice and support. I think the way forward may be an engineering club and I am looking at the possibility of investing in a variety of equipment such as Meccano, Kinex and Lego to help inspire the children to construct and experiment. I am also hopeful that we will get 3D printing back up and running and possibly even a new printer.

One thing that I need to be able to do in order to begin some engineering is find a space for storage and hopefully, this is in hand. The PTA have purchased a new storage building to

replace the wooden sheds on the playground and I am keeping my fingers crossed that we can utilise this for children's engineering projects as well as sports equipment and maintenance tools.

If anyone is around on Sunday and fancies wielding a hammer or a crowbar a small group of us will be in school emptying and taking down the existing buildings so that we can begin to prepare a base for the new. We also have to move one shed on to the school field to use as a permanent indoor home for the chickens who must now be segregated from wild birds due to avian flu restrictions. I can promise coffee and, if I can remember, I shall try and buy biscuits!

Have a good weekend.

Mr Ronane

## **From the Office...**

### **ICKFORD SCHOOL HALL OF FAME**



#### **French Award:**

Drew Wyse, Harrison O'Mahoney, Bruce Dingle, Georgina Preston, Lyla Gill, Emily Coxon, Sienna Jones, George Jones, Lucy Hird

#### **PE Award:**

George Middleton

#### **Music Award:**

Harry Jolliffe, Lottie Hunting, Mia Makris, Emily-Jay Friday, Braydon O'Malley

#### **German Award:**

James Kendall

#### **Latin Award:**

Ella Cooke

#### **Headteachers Award:**

Harry Jolliffe, Charlie Kendall, Matilda Ousley, Eliza Gapper, Jago Miller

### **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

15 <sup>th</sup> November	Chinnor War Horses	14 <sup>th</sup> December KS2 Carol Concert
2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Christmas Fayre	15 <sup>th</sup> December Christmas Lunch
12 <sup>th</sup> & 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Nativity	16 <sup>th</sup> December Whole School Panto Trip

### Have you entered our School Lottery???

Every week someone with the school is a winner!

To be in with a chance to win, AND support your school, please click on the link below and get signed up!

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/ickford-school>



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