

Ickford News

'Better to be late than never', seems to be a motto I should adopt about newsletters this year as the days when I was able to churn them out on a tight Friday deadline like an old time Fleet Street hack seem beyond my reach. However, I thought it best to give a half termly update and to promise that, one day, there will be the resumption of normal service.

Parent Evenings

Everyone should have attend the first of the year's Parent/Teacher meetings and I hope that you will all have an idea of your child's current progress and most importantly, what areas need to be worked on. It is early days but my experience informs me that tackling things early reaps rewards in the future. Therefore, if the class teacher has suggested practising something at home, it is worth beginning immediately.

PTA

I managed to attend the AGM of the PTA last week and although the numbers present were disappointing, the reports produced by the Chair and Treasurer were astounding to listen to.

In the past 6 years, our PTA has worked incredibly hard and raised significant sums of money for the children and I shall always be grateful to Maria, Emily and previous committee members for their sterling work. Nonetheless, Ben, Richard and Victoria the new 'Officers' have injected a new lease of life into the PTA and already surpassed expectations. The School Lottery is a masterstroke and I would urge everyone who has not already signed up, to do so and, if possible, get your friends and family to sign up as well. I guarantee that every penny raised by the PTA benefits the children directly and being able to predict and monitor a small income stream such as the School Lottery really enables us to plan.

Check out the PTA newsletter for the minutes of the AGM and the election of new Officers. You can also see the reality of the funds raised so far and hopefully ways in which, if you are not already, you can get involved this year.

Work completed and in progress

The project to replace our boilers and heating system is almost completed and should be finished this week. Higgins have been very easy contractors to work with and I am delighted with the way the

management of the project and the ease of communication that we have had.

This week we shall have some decoration carried out including the toilets and changing rooms in the Sports Hall so the environment should be fresher and brighter when the children return.

I am immensely grateful to Mr Boardman (Evie and Phoebe) who has insulated the floors to the PE equipment sheds and replaced the window this week. He has also carried out other maintenance jobs without any charge to the school. The PE shed refurbishment is a PTA project and will ensure the equipment will be easier to look after.

Thanks to the PTA, the upgrade of **FUZE** computer programming equipment has also been completed. This equipment enables our older children to learn to write code and acts as a platform between early programming tools such as Scratch and a more advanced system such as Python which they may go on to use at Secondary School.

Staffing

I am pleased to have appointed a new class teacher to join us in January 2018. Unfortunately, she is unable to start at an

earlier date so, for the time being, I shall continue to teach Class 3. My apologies in advance for any more late newsletters!

Sports

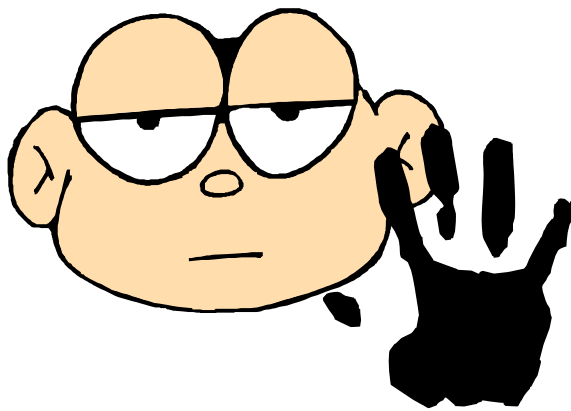
Our competitive season begins in earnest straight after half term when the KS2 Netball team will compete in the Waddesdon Sports Partnership Festival on Tuesday October 31st. This is our area championship and winning will enable us to progress to the Regional Finals. Having gone 'all the way' last year winning the Regional and County Finals the current squad have a lot to live up to but that is in the past and I have no doubt that everyone involved will enjoy trying their best.

I am delighted to announce that some of our past players are making great strides in the game at their new schools and clubs. Two in particular are taking the game by storm and both Elisabeth and Charlotte Basnett have represented their Region and their County and both are playing in the adult leagues even though they are only just about to reach 15. Charlotte has now been selected to join the Wasps Academy and to train with some of the top prospects in the Country.

Steps to Stop

Those of you who have had children in the school for some time, will know about our prevention of Bullying strategy the 3-Step approach which I introduced to Ickford when I came. Although it has been very successful in empowering the children to prevent adverse behaviour and to stop potential bullying, I decided to revise it this year and to improve it. Our new initiative is called, **Steps to Stop** and all of the children have been practising it.

Step 1



“Stop it please, if you keep doing it I will tell an adult.”

Step 2



Tell an adult

As you can see, it is a very simple strategy but it is also very effective. Most importantly it empowers the children to stand up to adverse behaviour and encourages them to tell people about things that happen which they may not like.

Every member of staff knows not to use the phrase, “Don’t tell tales” as it is crucial to have a ‘telling’ culture in school. My aim is that the children will not just be happy in school but that as they get older they will feel comfortable talking to others if they believe they are victims of wrong doing.

Finally...

The next half term promises to be a very busy one. I am looking forwards to taking my class out for the day to be Saxons and Vikings and I know other classes have trips planned. The Christmas Fayre preparations will begin in earnest and, as mentioned, we have Netball followed by Infant Multi Skills to compete in.

Everyone is working hard and we will be evaluating the impact of new assessment systems in the very near future so, exciting times indeed.

Mr Ronane

Ickford News from the office

Dates for your diary...

23 rd – 27 th October	Half Term
30 th October	Year 5 & 6 Swimming lessons begin
31 st October	School Photos
9 th November	Class 4 Trip to Henley Rivers & Rowing Museum
5 th December	KS1 Nativity for whole school, grandparents and siblings
7 th December	KS1 Nativity (No preschool children)
8 th December	Christmas Fayre
12 th December 9am	French Assembly
12 th December	Christmas Lunch
14 th December 6.30pm	KS2 Carols at St Nicholas Church, Ickford
15 th December	Whole school trip to Pantomime

School Lottery

Last week's lottery winner was Rebecca Walker; the winnings will go towards helping her infirmed husband and Gin.

If you would like the chance to win a life-changing sum of money, and support the school, please click on the link below and get signed up!

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

Uniform

If anyone would like to order a school coat or a boater then please ask Mrs Addis in the office. Boaters are permitted as part of school uniform and can be ordered through school.

Please remember that both boys and girls socks must be grey

Parking

Please continue to park considerately not only for the sake of the local residents but also with the health and safety of the children in mind.

Thank you

Thank you to Emily Davis (Harvey Class 4) who has been weeding the garden areas and helping to create a quite garden area that the children and staff will soon be able to use.

Boardman Windows

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School

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