

Ickford

The enduring dilemma Ickford has acquired over recent years is the 'weight of expectation' which by definition is a burden to carry. The school has high expectations which could, it may be argued, be abandoned in order to relieve the burden on ourselves. In doing so, the smallest achievements would be seen as success because if nothing is expected in the first place, then anything exceeds expectation.

I lose sleep worrying about maintaining our success because, as I tell the staff, success is collective and shared but any failure is my responsibility. Perhaps lowering expectations would make life easier or at least gain a few hours more sleep but unfortunately, I have witnessed this approach and observed how a culture of low expectations becomes a culture of excuses. There have been several events this week that triggered the thoughts behind this newsletter.

Firstly, being in the classroom teaching and watching children deal with solving problems. Nobody likes to struggle, least of all children who are trying to impress their teacher but how much more value there is to success when there has been a struggle

to achieve it and how worthwhile things are when children learn that impressing their teacher is insignificant in comparison to the benefits they gain in developing resilience and perseverance.

Secondly, watching Miss Vukomanovic shed tears of joy and I dare say, relief when she collected her bound dissertation that marks the end of almost three years of hard work completing her Master's Degree whilst continuing to maintain her role as an outstanding teacher. She has put in hours of study and had to overcome many hurdles to get to this point and deserves to be congratulated for her achievement. I have no doubt that, when the final mark is awarded she will pass with flying colours and on that note, I must also congratulate Mrs Wolff who, having carried out her research project in Ickford School, was awarded a 'distinction' for her dissertation.

Finally, the School Sport's Partnership Area netball tournament that took place last Tuesday. When one considers what children playing netball at Ickford have achieved in the past 6 years, the burden of expectation certainly weighed heavily on the shoulders of this year's match squad. Nonetheless, having, for the first time, entered two teams in this event, I was very proud to watch them play so well in their

first tournament and see the A team emerge as winners and the B team take third place. As I have come to expect (that word again), every player represented the school in a true Ickford fashion, determined, tenacious and gracious in victory. Qualities that should hold them in good stead not just on the netball court or in the sporting arena but in all areas of life.

Have a good weekend,

Mr Ronane

Ickford News from the office

Dates for your diary...

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| 6 th November | Year 5 & 6 Swimming Lessons |
| 9 th November | Class 4 Trip to Henley Rivers & Rowing Museum |
| 13 th November | Year 5 & 6 Swimming Lessons |
| 16 th November | Class 5 Trip to Bletchley Park |
| 20 th November | Year 5 & 6 Swimming Lessons |
| 20 th November | Class 3 Trip to Ufton Court |
| 27 th November | Year 5 & 6 Swimming Lessons |
| 30 th November 9am | Guitar & Ukulele Assembly |
| 1 st December | Carducci Workshop (KS2) |
| 4 th December | Year 5 & 6 Swimming Lessons |
| 5 th December 2-3pm | KS1 Nativity for whole school, grandparents and siblings |
| 7 th December 6.30-7.30pm | KS1 Nativity (No preschool children) |

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| 8 th December 5-6.30pm | 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 for the second time was Kelly Wakelin.

If you would like the chance to win, and support the school, please click on the link below and signup!

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

School Council Meeting-

(Class Reps, House Captains, Vice Captains)

Monday 6th November Miss Vukomanovic would like to meet with all the class reps, house captains & vice captains at 8.45am for a school council meeting, please come straight to the office.

Parking

Several parents have become concerned about the risk to children caused by cars parking opposite or on the yellow zig-zag road markings or on the corner of Bridge Road. Please consider the safety of children crossing and park away from this area.