

Ickford News

So arrived the final day of the first term, complete with a barrage of risqué jokes and smutty innuendo but I won't bore you with further details of our staff meeting, it's much safer to report on the success of Friday's Pantomime trip that concluded a hectic but memorable last week of term. All of the children appeared to enjoy the thigh-slapping hilarity of Snow White particularly Zach and Jago who, sitting either side of me, were given permission by the Court Jester, to nudge me and shout, "Come on Fatty, join in!" if they felt I was not making sufficient effort to embrace the occasion. I promise you I did join in and I must refute the rumours that I slept through the first half of the performance. I always sit like that!

Panto aside, Friday brought to a close a week that, in my opinion, highlighted the real depth of feeling for our school and the dedication and professionalism of the teachers, support staff, parents and children. Snow and ice seem to spread panic throughout the country and last Sunday morning I watched as my computer screen reported the domino effect of school closures throughout the County. The question on everyone's lips..."Would Ickford open?"

everyone that is who doesn't know me or the staff! Once the places in the Landrover were booked and the indomitable Miss Vukomanovic announced she was heading in from Dunstable, the marker was put down and we carried on with 'business as usual'.

Our 'business' is delivering a good education to the children in our care and on the Monday morning, when every other school in Bucks was closed, we had the opportunity of watching Mme Basnett's French assembly. The singing, acting and standard of French were outstanding and it was a pleasure to watch the children who are clearly motivated to learn the language by their respect for and dare I say, affection for, Mme Basnett. I am so pleased for her that the snow could not beat us and that the assembly went ahead as so much work goes in to preparing such events.

This year, I am delighted that we were able to return to St Nicholas' Church for the evening Carols by Candlelight. The church in Ickford is a beautiful building and although fire regulations now prevent us from packing it to the rafters, it was wonderful to fill the place with the voices of the children and to breathe life into its historic stone walls. There is something about listening to children singing carols

that makes one feel Christmas has started and this years concert was of a very high standard. Once again, I must thank Mr Shackleton for playing the piano not only on the evening but also during the rehearsals. Richard gives up so much of his precious time to support Mrs Shackleton and the teachers with the music and singing as well as being treasurer for the PTA this year and I am indebted to him.

Not just Richard but all of the PTA committee have been tremendous this year and I am immensely grateful to them for the Christmas lunch provided for everyone on Thursday. Lots of parents turned up to help transform the hall and then serve a delicious turkey dinner to every child before clearing it all away again. It was a real party atmosphere, full of music, laughter, crackers, hats, dodgy jokes and even a visit from Father Christmas (who appeared to have shrunk in height and gained in girth somewhat since the Fayre) that made every child happy.

In between all of the above, we have had lessons, assessments and, as I wrote earlier, carried on with 'business as usual'. It is what we do and I am proud of it. I know that the great majority of parents appreciate the school and the

teachers would want me to thank you all for the gifts and cards that we receive at this time of year. Personally, I have had a fine time back in the classroom this term causing 'havoc' with Class 3 and I want to thank the children and their parents for supporting me during a busy period.

It only remains to wish you all a peaceful and happy holiday period and to hope that the New Year is a good one.

Mr Ronane

