

# Ickford News

The place to begin this week has to be thanking the authors of last week's newsletter in my absence. Tilly and Evie did a fantastic job and I must now try to convince them to take on the role permanently!

It is no surprise to me that the girls were confident and articulate enough to independently take on the newsletter as I have watched them grow over the past 7 years supported by some fantastic teachers. Last week, they joined their peers in year 6 in taking on the national standard attainment tests (SATs) with the collective attitude of, "We are well prepared, we are confident and we welcome an opportunity to show what we are capable of" all credit to Mme Basnett who instils this kind of confidence in the children.

There were no tales of undue stress, nor reluctance or even boredom and I find it really uplifting that every child in Year 6 practically ran in to school last week and took to the task. However, there is no rest and no sense of it being the end of the journey at Ickford. Learning will carry on right up until the end of term and these children have much more to achieve yet.

Once again, our PTA excelled at fundraising and giving everyone a chance to relax at the same time when, on Friday evening they hosted another 'film night' complete with bar and BBQ for adults who had already seen Fernando. I had intended to watch the film with the children and even managed to strategically smuggle a bean bag into a prime spot where I could relax with my box of popcorn. However, I didn't get to see any of it as duty called and I was forced to have a drink at the bar. As the beverage was proffered by an esteemed member of the medical profession, I thought it foolish to refuse what was obviously alcoholic refreshment for medicinal purposes only. It is a tough job but someone has to do it!

This week's 'Unsung Hero' is Mr Carter (Payton Yr 6) who gave up his Saturday in the sun to bring to life our long jump sandpit and

run up. We got stuck in with the pick and spade and by the time we sat down in the shade for a well-deserved sandwich courtesy of Mrs Carter, we had transformed what really was just a dirty sand pit, into what will be a great resource for the children currently at the school and hopefully some of those that have left us.

Such was the success of our endeavours that I am now hopeful we can install a prefabricated track surface or a poured synthetic surface in front of the landing pit. If the plan is successful then we will have a really good long jump area and a practice lane for starts and hurdles. A huge thank you to Justin for his time and expertise, watch this space!



Although it has been a tough year on the sporting front, we have managed to keep winning many competitions. Unfortunately, we did not manage to complete the double of tennis tournaments last week and failed to add the 5/6 gold medals to our 3/4 golds won earlier in the year. The team of 2 boys and 2 girls placed great tennis but unfortunately, it took us a 'rubber' to get into our stride and ultimately, our slow start cost us a place at the top table. Nevertheless, despite coming up against strong opposition in a tournament that included schools from across the County

and Milton Keynes rather than just our area, the team managed fourth place and can be very proud of themselves. However, as Evie and Tilly wrote in last week's newsletter, "No-one remembers 2<sup>nd</sup> place!" (Ooops!)

I shall leave you with an e-mail sent to me by the Director of Education for Bucks Learning Trust who paid us a visit last Tuesday, her first in 6 years.

*John,*

*Thank you so much for the warm welcome yesterday and for taking so much time out of a busy day to show me round and talk to me. I love what you are doing, the values that underpin your decisions, the high expectations and the total belief in pupils and staff that anything is possible if you work hard. I can't remember the last time that I saw such strong evidence of progress for writing in YR and Y1 - their engagement and enthusiasm for learning was infectious. What a super job by the teacher. Do thank Dawn for her time, again another very talented individual- so professionally generous working with passion, thought and integrity. I'm not surprised by the outcomes she is helping youngsters achieve. Finally, well done you - you are right, many over complicate things in education - you've been clear with staff that the day job is about teaching and caring for the pupils and as head you will do the rest. That must be very reassuring for all. Whether it's with BLT or a different organization I'd urge you to be as professionally generous to yourself as you are to staff and consider your own ongoing professional development and look for something that both challenges and engages you next academic year. Always happy to have a further conversation.*

We only achieve what we have done with your continued support.

Mr Ronane

## Ickford NEWS from the office

### Dates for your diary...

25 <sup>th</sup> May 8.40am	French Café & May Dancing
28 <sup>th</sup> May - 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Half Term
7 <sup>th</sup> June	School Photos
14 <sup>th</sup> June 9am	Recorder Assembly
29 <sup>th</sup> June 6pm	KS2 Summer Concert
3 <sup>rd</sup> July 9am	Class 1 Assembly
5 <sup>th</sup> July 5.30-7pm	Open Evening & Art Exhibition

### School Lottery

Last week's School Lottery winner was Anna O'Kennedy, congratulations!

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

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

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