

## Ickford News

I worry, maybe I shouldn't but I do. I worried this morning when, on the way in to work, I passed several of our past pupils waiting at bus stops on their way to various Secondary Schools. Every one of them was staring at a mobile phone. A brother and sister stood next to each other not exchanging a glance let alone a word of conversation, this kind of thing worries me.

I worry that Ickford might be over protective, overbearing even, overly worried about achievement and overly concerned that the children are kind to each other and well behaved. I worry that, the children that leave will find Secondary School such an alien environment that they may struggle. These shouldn't be my worries but they are.

I am worried because I sometimes hear of past pupils being unhappy or being bullied at their new schools. At Ickford we work hard to ensure a zero tolerance to bullying and we make every effort to try and empower the children to be able to deal with bullying should they experience it. You will have heard of the Steps to Stop, simple but effective. However, there are reasons for this.

I don't want to alienate Secondary Schools here and please understand this is only a personal opinion but, if there is a problem with bullies in school, there is most likely a problem with behaviour in general. If you accept poor behaviour then that is what you will get and eventually, children (and trust me they are children) who want to comply, get on with their studies, enjoy school and their friends and generally be good, kind kids, will begin to suffer at the hands of those who lose respect for authority and find ways (often supported by parents) to empower themselves and threaten the well being of others.

I hated my first year at Secondary School. Passing the eleven plus meant being parted from my friends and placed at the mercy of a red brick institution akin to Tom Brown's School days where I was surrounded by ex-prep school boys, brutal priests and a chain-smoking discipline master with a twitchy cane hand. As the only 'council house' boy, I was forced to fight the older boys for entertainment purposes and on one occasion set alight on the bus due to the decision of a few 'cool boys' to use the hood of my parka as an ash tray. Most of the time I said nothing to my parents but the burned coat was something I couldn't hide. Their answer, fight back, hit harder than they hit me, 1970's south London reaction, old school I suppose we would say now.

Times have changed, at least I would like to think they have and if I was the parent of a child being bullied in school, here is what I would do. Talk to my child and make sure that they knew I was going to listen and to help them. Then I would call the school and ask to speak to the Headteacher. If I got passed on to a form tutor or Head of Year, I would request a meeting. If it were refused for any reason, I would persist. If at that meeting they promised to take immediate action, I might give them the chance but I'd expect immediate change. If things did not change, I would continue to request a meeting with the Headteacher and not rest until I got one. I would hold them accountable and I would persist until they did something to stop my child being bullied.

Ickford is not a perfect school (I am certainly very far from perfect) but it is committed to ensuring the health and safety of its pupils. I know that the great majority of our past pupils are happy in their new schools but I want to offer any help we can to those that may not be.

Mr Ronane

# Ickford News from the office

## Dates for your diary...

7 <sup>th</sup> December	*No Y5/6 Badminton*
14 <sup>th</sup> December	Class 5 visit to Bletchley Park
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Inset Day

## School Lottery

### A winner within school every week!

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>



## Breakfast Club

Please remember to book your child's place for breakfast club with the school office by Friday at midday for the following week. Entry to breakfast club will be via Gate A by the Recreation Ground.



## This Weeks Celebration Assembly

### Hall of Fame:

#### Music Award:

Jude Barnes  
Timothy Issitt  
Kathryn Hargreaves  
Brayden O'Malley  
Jake Fletton

#### PE Award:

Ronin Reeve  
Jasper Fletton  
James Kendall  
Tiana Mose- Dixon  
Harriett Palmer

#### French Award:

William Wallace  
Morgan Parkes  
James Harris  
Dominic Green  
Zach Stanfield

#### German Award:

Cassie O'Kennedy

#### Latin Award:

Eleanor Hagues

#### Headteachers Award:

Kirk O'Malley  
Thomas Betteley  
Faye Kitchen  
Dominic Green  
Gethin Walters