

Ickford News

The Chelsea Flower Show provided the inspiration to begin a project with Year 6 this week to design a new courtyard garden in school. On Tuesday Mme Basnett was committed to some external work and I was required to cover her class. Once we were sure she was safely on her way to moderate another school, I went to watch a film clip of Gardener's Worlds very own Adam Frost designer of gardens and winner of a gold medal at the RHS show and out came the sketch paper. I was delighted with the enthusiasm the children had for this and impressed with their ability to work in teams and get stuck in to research. They came up with some good ideas and we ordered some materials to begin the revamp of the area where the chickens once roamed. After half term we hope to create a relaxing and interesting space where both children and teachers can enjoy some outdoor time.

Our intended outdoor activity this morning, the annual May Dancing and crowning of the May King and Queen was unfortunately disrupted by the rain and had to be delayed until this afternoon. Thankfully, a great many parents and grandparents managed to reorganise their days to get back to school to witness this year's dances which, as always, were charming to behold. I must confess that I had thought of doing away with the event this year as we had a couple of disgruntled murmurs about girls having to dance as boys and vice-versa but, after a resounding, "No!" from the teachers at my suggestion, we chose to carry on and I am very pleased that we did.

The youngest children are always entertaining when they dance and most have no inhibitions. On the other hand, as we all know, when we get older we begin

to become a little more self-conscious so I am very proud indeed that our Year 6 children carried off their dance with a really positive attitude and smiles on their faces. There are more boys in the class but they showed that gender made no difference and that they are mature enough not to be concerned about such things.

I hope that everyone has had a chance to read the statement about GDPR and possibly looked at the updated Data Protection Policy via the website. Your child should have brought home and given you a new permission form regarding photographs and filming which, I must stress, we need you to complete and return as soon as possible. Please bear in mind when completing this form that it is very difficult in schools to please everyone and, if you do not want your children photographed, this has to be taken in to consideration when putting on productions, concerts, nativities and other events that parents may want to keep a memory of. The forms must be returned by Friday June 8th.

Another policy that has been updated this week is the Attendance Policy which can also be accessed via the website. As you can imagine, there are no significant changes to the policy except to reinforce our strong message of how important full attendance is. I was at a meeting with other local schools this week including Secondary Schools and it seems that others are now following our line and the Secondary Schools in particular are being challenged to improve their attendance and punctuality and we have agreed to liaise with each other if we have issues or concerns.

We are about to enter the final half term of what has been an interesting yet challenging year. There is a great deal still

to be achieved and with numerous music events, the school play, dance and sports tournaments, the diary is very full. Though I enjoy the 'buzz' and the pressure, it is always the saddest time of the year for me as I know we will be losing some of the children in a matter of weeks. Like the flowers at Chelsea, they begin as seedlings and we look after them so that they come into bloom just at the right time. Now is their time.

Have a good half term break,

Mr Ronane

Injured Players Foundation

If anyone would like to sponsor me, I am hoping to play at Twickenham on June 9th in the RFU Veterans Rugby Day to raise money for the families of players that have died or been seriously injured playing Rugby. At my club Ealing Trailfinders we have seen a tragic injury to a young player this year and I would like to play my part in helping him, his family and others like him. If you would like to make a small donation you can do so by following the link below to my Just Giving Page or by copying the address into your browser.

[John's RFUIPF page](#)

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/john-ronane>



Sponsors of the Summer Concert

Ickford News from the office

Dates for your diary...

28 th May - 1 st June	Half Term
7 th June	School Photos
14 th June 9am	Recorder Assembly
25 th -22 nd June	Science Week
29 th June 6pm	KS2 Summer Concert
3 rd July 9am	Class 1 Assembly
5 th July *6-7pm	Open Evening & Art Exhibition
6 th July	Summer Fayre
13 th July 9am	Ballet Assembly
16 th July 1.30pm	Class 4 & 5 Play
17 th July 7pm	Class 4 & 5 Play
18 th July	Sports Day
20 th July	Leavers Assembly

* please note time change

School Lottery

Last week's School Lottery winner was Graham Dawson, 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>