

Ickford News

My first task is to extend huge thanks on behalf of the staff and myself for all of the cards and gifts. They are really appreciated and really quite touching.

It has, as I expected, been a difficult and emotional day but not in a negative way. The mood of friendship and fellowship has been quite overwhelming and although there are tinges of sadness in the air with children and staff leaving us, the overall feeling is of pride and optimism.

The leavers assembly was very special indeed and the children in Year 6 had us all laughing (before everyone in the place appeared to spontaneously burst in to tears that is) with their performance of Ickford 2088 followed by photographs from their first year at Ickford.

The majority of this year group began here in Reception at the beginning of a new era when Miss Vukomanovic, Mrs Honey and Mme Basnett first joined us. There were others but this triumvirate of indomitable ladies are the only ones who had the tenacity to stick with me as well as Mrs Brunet, Mrs Probets and Mrs Winfield. Along the way, we have picked up other children but each one has added something to the group and it is testament to the nature of the children that they have wrapped their arms around new members so readily.

Ickford has been good for the children. It has given them confidence and encourage traits of perseverance, determination and resilience. They know that they can learn from their mistakes and they know that to fail is a stepping stone on the way to achievement.

They have achieved so much and I am very proud that this cohort has exceeded all expectations and given us our best SATs results to date. Their final year has been magnificent and Mme Basnett has ensured that each one of the class reached their potential under her guidance with an abundance of love and enthusiasm.

My hope is that the children stay in touch with each other. As I said to them this morning outside of your Primary school friends, only your family can remember you as a child so hold them dear.

For the school as a whole it has been a year of ups and downs and, as always, we may not have pleased everyone. In terms of sporting success we had many at both infant and junior level and we have been dominant in several sports.

Sports Day this week went well and everyone (almost everyone) appeared to enjoy it. The KS2 performance of Treasure Island this week was also a great success and showcased the talents of many children who clearly relish treading the boards.

The GDPR regulations provided challenge and heating systems and leaks will provide work throughout the summer holiday.

We say goodbye to Mrs Foord, Mrs Charnock and Mrs Golder and wish them well for the future. On behalf of everyone I would like to thank them for all of their hard work.

I would also like to offer sincere thanks on behalf of the school to Mrs Palmer who has stepped in to help in Mr Partington's absence and been a huge help to me.

Throughout the year, you have witnessed a PTA working tirelessly to raise funds for the children and I know Ben has announced the final figures raised this year. As a result of the hard work by all of the committee and Ben in particular, we shall be completing the installation of new touch screens for every classroom over the summer. Thank you.

The Governing Body of Ickford School is rarely mentioned but their contribution is immeasurable. With their support and that of our three Members, Messrs Silvera, Laar and Walker, I have been able to run the school to the best of my ability without obstruction and with critical friends on hand to help at all times. Most importantly and unlike any other school I have worked in, they know the children and the children know them. Thank you.

To the teachers, teaching assistants, Mrs Addis, Midday supervisors and cleaners, I say thank you on behalf of the children. You are the best!

So, enjoy the summer break and make the most of the sunshine. Now is the time to have the trendy haircuts, use hair gel, paint nails, get ears pierced, wear baseball caps and replica football shirts and kick back. We begin again on September 3rd at 9.00 am sharp. Smart, smiling and ready to learn from day one. If nothing else, I am relentless!

Mr Ronane



Treasure Island

Desiderata

Go placidly amid the noise and haste,
and remember what peace there may be in silence.

As far as possible without surrender
be on good terms with all persons.
Speak your truth quietly and clearly;
and listen to others,
even the dull and the ignorant;
they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons,
they are vexations to the spirit.

If you compare yourself with others,
you may become vain and bitter;
for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.
Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.

Keep interested in your own career, however humble;
it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.
Exercise caution in your business affairs;
for the world is full of trickery.
But let this not blind you to what virtue there is;
many persons strive for high ideals;
and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself.
Especially, do not feign affection.
Neither be cynical about love;
for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment
it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years,
gracefully surrendering the things of youth.
Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune.
But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings.
Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.
Beyond a wholesome discipline,
be gentle with yourself.

You are a child of the universe,
no less than the trees and the stars;
you have a right to be here.
And whether or not it is clear to you,
no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore be at peace with God,
whatever you conceive Him to be,
and whatever your labors and aspirations,
in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul.

With all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams,
it is still a beautiful world.
Be cheerful.
Strive to be happy.

— *Max Ehrmann, 1927*

