

# Ickford News

And we're off! Madame Basnett has fired up her Spotify and tuned every speaker to Mariah Carey and Wham. If you see a blue Corsa in Ickford or Thame, sporting tinsel on the dashboard and baubles on the rear-view mirror, you will know it's our very own Queen of Christmas heading to 'rock around someone's Christmas tree!

It has (in my opinion) certainly come early and I am not sure I am fully prepared. Nonetheless, there is no better place to be than in a Primary school at this time of year and surrounded by good people. It is the time when I appreciate being part of a 'team' the most, a time when you need several 'teams' and a time when you are glad to have the best people in your 'team'.

If Madame is Queen then Jackie Thomas must be the Princess because she led her team brilliantly in organising the Christmas Fayre this year. Understated, rather than an all Christmas bells and whistles affair, I hope that everyone who came enjoyed it. Collectively, you have raised approximately, £2,500 for the school and I want to thank all who came and all who purchased raffle tickets. I also want to reiterate my thanks to Mr Hawkins who so kindly donated the wonderful Christmas tree and Mrs Arnold and Mrs Shannon for decorating it. Jackie has been in touch with me to ensure that I pass on her thanks to the whole parent team who helped to set up and run the Fayre, those behind the scenes and those who helped out on the night.

I must also thank Larry and his team who came down from London and set up the 'pop up' kitchen to provide such tasty snacks. I have a great deal to thank Larry and his various team members for over the years and, trust me, when I try to offer his young staff something by way of a token payment for giving up their time and for all their effort, I am humbled by their unanimous refusal to accept anything. Though it may not mean much to anyone reading this, I must also thank Charlie Hinds the Sales Director of HG Walters the Master Butchers. Charlie donated all of the meat and is not only a great friend of Larry but also a former pupil of mine (when he was 8) too many years ago for me to mention!

My next thanks are to my very own team of teachers and teaching assistants who gave up their Friday evening to help out and in particular those who ran stalls. It has not been easy in the past week or so with members of staff being absent and others having to pick up extra duties and I know that the next two weeks will be some of the busiest of the year. I will freely admit that when I switched off the final light on Friday evening and locked the front door, it was not the lingering taste of the chicken curry that made me smile or the image of the children carrying their bounty from the tombola, but the sense of comradeship and belonging that a successful, community evening brings. I know I have some great people around me who are prepared to go that extra mile for the benefit of others and often without the recognition and support that they deserve.

As I say, the next two weeks will be very busy. We have no Administration Officer at the moment and, in addition to Nativity performances, Carol Concerts, St Nicholas productions, Christmas lunches and Pantomime outings, learning will be planned, lessons delivered, meetings attended, cuts and bruises tended to, tears dried and noses wiped. Please keep this in mind when we make a request for wellington boots (15 children without) so that

outdoor learning can take place or we ask that the children are on time for the Nativity and in their correct uniform for the Carol Service. Keep it in mind that we are short staffed in the office when you are looking for mislaid uniform that does not have a name on the label or changing going home arrangements at the last minute.

I know for a fact that in plenty of schools the next two weeks will be seen as 'wind down to Christmas time' in other words, a waste of time but that will not happen here. The next two weeks are as important as the past two weeks and any other week of school. I will be asking a lot of my team but relatively little of parents and with your support we can add value to every child's experience.

Thank you all.

Mr Ronane

## **Christmas Fayre Winners**

### **Number of Sweet Bags in the Jar: 43**

Poppy Rhodes and Evelyn Ansell-Hawes

### **Guess the Name of the Teddy: Ralph**

Benji Herratt

### **Move the Beans with Chopsticks:**

Key Stage 1: Babs Smith

Key Stage 2: Sophie Vorotyntsova (selection box to be collected)

### **Hampers:**

C Johnson

Tom Herratt

R Stevens

A Bennett

Mr Cooke

Mrs Hagues

Hunting

Mr Hird

Sam Hawkins

Louise Kolbert

**Anyone who needs to collect a hamper please get in touch with [ptaickfordschool@gmail.com](mailto:ptaickfordschool@gmail.com) and Jackie will meet you at school.**

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

12 <sup>th</sup> & 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Nativity
14 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Carol Concert
15 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch
16 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole School Panto Trip

**Have you entered our School Lottery???**

**Every week someone with the school is a winner!**

To be in with a chance to win, AND support your school, please click on the link below and get signed up!

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



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