

Ickford News

Adversity tends to clear the mind and sharpen focus. Post adversity finds one taking stock and weighing up the options. There are several things to feature in this newsletter and many people to thank but the first option I choose is to say how relieved I was to see almost every child in school on Thursday and to thank all those parents who showed so much support following the eventful carol concert on Wednesday evening.

I take full responsibility for the organisation of the concert as it is I who makes the decisions about numbers, seating, the stage set up, lighting and the use of mobile phones. I am sure that most, if not all of you, will have heard that one child was physically sick during the performance and a number of others fainted and became unwell. In the past, the hall has become quite warm during performances so I deliberately turned the heating to a low setting this week. I have looked through the data from the computerised heating sensors and there is no evidence of any spike in temperature and the children I have spoken to told me that there was not any uncomfortable heat caused by the two spotlights. All of the children had rehearsed and gone through the routines and there had been no problems during rehearsals. I can only conclude that we were unlucky and that some children may have had a 'bug' of sorts.

The decision to stop the concert was mine and I can only thank my staff and the parents who remained calm and helped all of the children both well and unwell to get safely to their parents and home. Whether I made the correct decision at the correct time, I can't be sure and everyone will have a different opinion I know. Nonetheless, I am more than happy that everyone was well again afterwards and that most made Christmas lunch and the Pantomime. I shall continue to reflect on things and ensure that I learn from it.

The week started with the infant Nativity and, if I am entirely honest, I thought that some of the youngest children were showing signs of being a little more weary than usual. In spite of this it was a lovely performance and it was good to see the budding stars of the future singing, dancing and acting. A special mention must go to Grace Beckett who stepped in at the last minute when the original Mary went down with chicken pox. Elsie Thomas, I wish you a speedy recovery and have no doubt you will get another chance to shine. Thank you to Miss Vukomanovic, Miss Southgate and all the support staff who helped with the Nativity, I know things went a little wrong but, you did your best and that's all you can do. Well done.

Thankfully, a deity of some sort was shining down on us on Thursday because the Christmas lunch was one of the best yet! I can't attempt to name all of the parents who got involved but I do know that Mrs Kendall and Mrs Anzarouth were at the helm and under their guidance, you all made it a really special occasion for the children. It was brilliant to watch the children laughing, singing, dancing, pulling their crackers, enjoying the food and then welcoming Santa with numerous Mexican waves. Thank you all so much.

Finally, today and Panto! When the coaches failed to turn up on time, I admit I was beginning to feel like finding another profession (and quickly) but, after a few rather stern phone calls from the wonderful Miss Holmes in the office, they finally got here and we were on our way.

As usual, the Panto was a raucous affair and I hope very much that some of the humour went over the children's heads! I take no responsibility whatsoever for their script! However, it was great fun and we all enjoyed sweets and ice cream and lots of dancing and cheering. Oh yes, we did...

The turnout for the last celebration assembly of 2022 was fantastic and I don't think we could have squeezed any more people into the hall. Lots of awards and a special Golden Book entry from Santa himself followed by some beautiful singing in, Latin, German and French before KS2 sang the wonderful Christmas song written for the school by our sublime piano teacher/composer in residence, Miss Grant. The finale was Mme Basnett's annual opportunity to make everyone smile and me dance with a rousing rendition of the 12 days of Christmas.

As we go into the break, I have plenty to do and lots to ponder on but, as always, lots to be grateful for in the team that I work with. We have said goodbye (for the time being) to Miss Allen as she takes leave to have her first baby. Miss Allen joined us about 5 years ago and had to deal with the disruption of Covid in her early time here. She is a brilliant teacher and I have no doubt she will make a wonderful mother. I am sure that, with the baby due imminently, you won't mind me wishing her and her partner Greg the happiest of holidays and all the best for their future as a family.

I shall close by thanking everyone for the cards and gifts and wishing everyone a peaceful and happy holiday. It will be Christmas for some and not others but whatever you do enjoy it and stay safe.

Mr Ronane

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