

Ickford News

Our school has a reputation for having, amongst other things, excellent behaviour. Furthermore, this has been highlighted in the last two of our Ofsted inspections:

Pupils' behaviour is impeccable. Leaders achieve this gold standard because they set the highest of expectations for pupils' conduct. In all classrooms, pupils' focus is astounding. Nobody distracts each other. Pupils are adamant there is no bullying. Everyone knows the 'steps to stop' anti-bullying mantra. Pupils say they feel safe and that any adult will listen to them. (Ofsted 2021)

Behaviour is exemplary and pupils work hard in lessons. They explained to me how the four Ickford values help them behave like an Ickford citizen. Pupils have a deep understanding of respect, equality and tolerance. (Ofsted 2018)

It is my personal opinion that, unless behaviour in schools is prioritised and expected to be, at the very least, good, the great majority of children will be denied the best opportunity to learn and achieve their full potential. In my experience, Headteachers will often avoid the discussing the topic and addressing it in public perhaps because they are afraid of coming across as a disciplinarian or of presiding over an authoritarian regime.

Managing behaviour in a school is not easy particularly in a society that is seemingly becoming more selfish and driven by instant gratification and one in which the internet and the mobile phone have, whilst purporting to connect us with the wider world, enabled us to distance ourselves from our immediate neighbours and live in a 'cyber-world' interacting with people we may never meet. Treat others as you would like to be treated and love thy neighbour as thyself are rapidly becoming redundant phrases consigned to an antiquated history.

We succeed at Ickford for several reasons. One is my personal belief in the necessity of well-behaved pupils in order for teachers to fulfil their role. Another is the consistency with which our policy is manifested on a daily basis and another, the mutual ambition of parents who appreciate what we do and support us in our endeavours. This combination of factors and the high quality of personnel here at Ickford, ensures that ours is a calm environment, where classical music can be heard in the corridors throughout the day, where rarely is a voice raised in irritation and where every child can feel safe and learn.

I have no doubt that there will be some who disagree, in spite of my inexhaustible optimism about the school, I am a realist. Although behaviour is excellent in general, we still have to work at it and there are still times when, children have to be spoken to and reminded of expectations, sanctions must be imposed and parents involved. However, I maintain that we are able to base our success on positive strategies and that what we do is appreciated by the great majority and supported.

I have a little advice for anyone who may be involved with children, never negotiate, not everything needs reward and shouting is the last tool in the box. Oh and, what you accept, you get.

I welcomed the chance to get out of school early this week to take two teams, one girls and one boys, to the Bucks Schools Sports Partnership Badminton competition at Waddesdon School. We have a good record in this competition and to say that the children who took part played well would be an understatement. They played 7 matches each against a variety of schools and neither team lost a game. A points system meant that we had to wait for the scores to be totalled up at the end but, as places were announced, I could see that the children had every right to feel hopeful and indeed they won by quite some margin!

I am delighted for the teams and most proud of the way in which they conducted themselves throughout the competition. They played with good spirit and showed respect for every team they came up against. They were gracious in winning, shaking hands with everyone at the end of the matches and they were also suitably humble when their overall victory was announced. We are blessed with some strong players again and I know that we have some youngsters coming through that will be pushing hard for places in the next competitions.



The children in Year 2 took part in another sports event this week and went to John Colet School in Wendover to take part in a multi-skills festival with other schools. Participation rather than competition was the theme (it used to be competitive) and all of the children enjoyed themselves. Miss Southgate and Mrs Ellis were suitably proud of their charges and returned full of good reports and enthusiasm.

Next week, it's the turn of the girl's football teams and then, the big one, the start of the Netball leagues! Wish us luck.

Mr Ronane



From the Office...

French Award:

Oliver Atkins, Harrison O'Mahoney, Aiden Barnes, George Jones, Sophie Vorotyntsova,

PE Award:

Alfie Peck, Jack Turner, Neve Woodley, Caleb Mortimer, Georgina Preston, Bryony Ellis

Music Award:

Riona Harrell, Alistair Robinson, William Barber, Molly Harding, Jago Miller

German Award:

Ella Cooke

Latin Award:

Max Smith

Headteachers Award:

Henry Preston, George Middleton, Emily Coxon, Elin Roberts, Abigail Hird

***Useful forms can now be found in the Parent Information tab on the school website.**

St Nicholas' church, Ickford.

On Sunday 5th February we are celebrating Candlemas and at our service we will be putting The Crib away. At the Crib Service on Christmas Eve, many children and their families came and helped set up The Crib. We would like to invite as many children as possible to help pack the crib figures away.

Please join us at 10:00 am for this all-age service, you will be very welcome.

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