

Ickford News

Not only was Marie Curie the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, she was also the first person to win two for different sciences, physics and chemistry. Hers is an inspirational story and a sad one. Her research and work involving radioactivity led to the development of the x-ray but her exposure to so much radiation over the years, probably led to her death at the age of 66. I am drawn to Marie Curie because I am a 'worrier' and I have always liked a quote attributed to her: "Nothing in life is to be feared; it is only to be understood."

Whilst the school has been enjoying Science week this week, it did not escape me that it was also Children's Mental Health Week and I have been looking at some research and some of the tools being made available to teachers and parents. I proceed cautiously because, at times, I worry that because we are bombarding young people with so much information about mental health, we may be creating problems just as much as we are solving them. As a pastoral support teacher in a secondary school explained to me, "the children don't just have a bad day anymore, they are suffering from depression."

However, we don't dismiss the fact that some children do suffer from anxiety and I have been putting in place some measures to ensure that the children are assured of someone to talk to if they need to and reassured that the world is not going to end. Unfortunately, the more we learn about the environment, climate change and global warming the more we seem to be increasing anxiety.

One of the intentions of Science week (so well organised by Mrs Honey) is to inspire children to be curious about the world and to ask questions in order to seek answers. As I said to one pupil this week when discussing their anxieties, the world will be OK because the young scientists at Ickford today will be the ones developing the solutions for the future.

Mrs Honey ensured that every class took part in some fun and interesting activities in their classrooms as well as spending time in the 'Wonderdome' and visiting the Oxford Science Park where, she explained to me:

"The children experienced the excitement of experimenting, developing their scientific knowledge and making their own discoveries as the centre had a wide range of activities designed to challenge the children's thinking. Each class took part in an experimental workshop, watched an interactive show and thoroughly enjoyed the practical, hands on delights of the Exploration Zone. A range of Science topics were covered which meant that the trip added to the broad curriculum that we already provide and was thoroughly enjoyed by all."

Thank you Mrs Honey and all the staff for making this week work.

I hope that everyone has a restful half term break and manages to get some family time. I am helping a friend out with his Secondary School residential so the week may not be as uneventful as I would like!

Mr Ronane

From the Office...

Engineer Award:

Jesse Jones, Oliver Every, William Barber, Emily-Jay Friday,
Jago Miller

Scientist Award:

Drew Wyse, Babs Smith, Sienna Jones, James Harris, Abigail Hird

Music Award:

Anna Roberts, Babs Smith, Harry Middleton, Stella Stanfield, Sophie Winspear

Achievement Awards

These awards are a special shield in house colours for children thought to have worked exceptionally hard throughout a half term or term.

Emily Aspden Yr. 5

Max Smith Yr. 6

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