

Ickford News

I learned a great deal about teaching last week. Not that this is unusual, I tend, indeed hope, to learn more and more about it every day. I try to learn in order to get better because, as Oliver Cromwell (not a man I warm to particularly) said, when you stop getting better, you stop being good.

I had to spend three days in a classroom learning about managing health and safety and I am sure many of you will have had experience of the IOSH training I went through. However, whilst I learned a lot about risk assessing and the fact that personal protective equipment is a last resort, I also learned how much difference the learning environment makes and the design of lessons.

Hemel Hempstead must have very lovely parts I'm sure but the training base was certainly not in one of them! If you can imagine a rather run down, windowless mini-cab office then you can get a picture of the classroom we were based in from 8.30 am until 4.30 pm stopping only for lukewarm coffee from a machine and a 45-minute lunch break. Trust me, I am seriously considering extending all of our children's break times and adamant that no lesson will ever last more than one hour! The embarrassment of having to be woken up regularly by the electrician next to me is not something I shall forget easily. Thankfully, I passed my exam with flying colours and will not have to visit Hemel Hempstead again in the foreseeable future.

In my absence, Mme Basnett took charge and, by all accounts, ran a tight ship. She is so good that I am beginning to feel a little nervous and my overwhelming fear of soon being surplus to requirements was intensified by the replacement PE teacher I managed to secure as cover for me on Wednesday. At least now, nearly every child currently in the school can brag to their friends when they get older that they were coached by a most excellent Member of the British Empire (MBE) and Olympic Gold medal coach, Danny Kerry even if only for one session! Mr Kerry we all thank you and children, sorry but it's me again this week.

Buckingham Park School will probably hope that we don't play them at Hockey and stick to the Netball because they were beaten convincingly last Tuesday when they came to play us in the league. They were very tall and not quite as familiar with some of the rules as we would prefer but, it gave our children some experience of what it is like to be 'roughed up a little' on court and to have to play their way out of problems and, albeit not always fairly, restricted space. We are top of the league and next week go to Bledlow Ridge School to take on their Year 6 team.

I shall leave discussion of the Parish Council and their 'renovation' works to those who are resident in Ickford and may be attending a Parish Council meeting this week. Suffice to say, I am not at all impressed by the work, their attitude or the fact that it looks like we shall lose the space on the field to mark out athletics track in the summer. To be told last Monday that Deansfield Homes had made a significant contribution to education in the area and were to be lauded was quite offensive but, that I suppose is how these wheels turn.

Never mind, I shall remain upbeat and simply concern myself with the school and look forward to our Key Stage 2 Summer Concert which, I can now confirm, will be on Friday June 23rd at 6.00 pm.

This is Mrs Shackleton's 'pièce de résistance' each year and she works incredibly hard to ensure its success. If anyone would like to support the event with some sponsorship, it would be most gratefully accepted and we are happy to advertise a company or an individual should someone choose to do so. We have enjoyed some lovely summer evenings in the past and it has always been an occasion for the children to demonstrate their collective and some individual, musical talent.

I apologise for the late newsletter (maybe Mme Queen of Ickford is not quite the finished article after all 😊).

I hope you have had a good weekend.

Mr Ronane

From the Office...

P.E. Award:

Ethan Crispin, Isabella Parsler, Molly Harding, Max Smith,

Headteacher's Award:

Lacey McClurg, Poppy Rhodes, William Barber, Jackson Marriott, Phoebe Boardman

French Award:

George Middleton, Henry Preston, Kirk O'Malley, Oisin Harrell, Harry Weeden, Jack Turner, Beau Llewellyn

German Award:

Abi Hird

Latin Award:

Brayden O'Malley

Music Award:

Oliver Atkins, Oliver Every, Sienna Jones, Iyla Hitchcock, Amelia Hargreaves



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