

# Ickford News

A week is a long time in politics and, dare I say, in schools. The darkening horizon visible last week has turned out not to be so dark after all and we can continue to look forward to the sunshine. It is not often that I spend time writing a newsletter and then not send it but, for now at least, last week's news shall be today's fish and chip wrapping.

Only Ickford could celebrate St Patrick's day with a French Café particularly when we have enough Irish Dancers and fiddle players to hold an impromptu ceilidh but, Mme Basnett is pure Anglo-Saxon and March 17<sup>th</sup> has no significance for her. The Celts amongst us can be consoled by the strong connection between the Breton inhabitants of Northern France and the likelihood that the Rugby tomorrow may also strengthen the Franco-Irish connection this week.

I have to thank Mrs Roberts and Mr Ellis for their help in the organisation of the café this morning. They have done sterling work in keeping this tradition going and being able to converse amiably in French with Madame is a bonus, something I struggle to do sometimes in English (A joke Madame).

We are of course, off to France next week with the children from Years 5 and 6, the first time we have ventured abroad since Covid. It should be a great week and we have a mixture of cultural activity and fun downtime planned. On Tuesday morning we shall be meandering through a French market and the children will be able to use their language skills to purchase mementoes of their visit and, no doubt, extravagant gifts for their families. In my experience, the children usually spend ridiculous amounts on tacky NYC baseball caps and plastic rubbish that they can buy at home but it's the thought that counts!

We shall also be visiting the battlefields of the Somme and the Albert Museum dedicated to the tragedy of the two great wars. A place of interest but also of great sadness when one considers how many lives were lost there. Nonetheless, the children study these events and this experience will, I hope, support their learning and foster a passion for History.

I am delighted that the trip is going ahead and feel privileged to be trusted by their families, to take responsibility for the safety of the children. Safeguarding is never easy in schools and this combined with Health and Safety are probably the two areas of leadership that cause most apprehension for Headteachers. Rest assured that even when I am away, we have strict systems in place to ensure the safety and well being of the children and one which enables me to be completely in touch no matter how far away.

Those who remain at school are also in for a treat because it is Prehistoric Week! I think the teachers thought that getting rid of the dinosaur for this week was an appropriate opportunity to choose this theme. I know there is a great deal planned including workshops, a visiting T-Rex called Sue (or maybe it's Sally I'm not here so...) and there should be some enjoyable learning experiences for everyone.

Have a good weekend.

Mr Ronane

## From the Office...

### Headteacher's Award:

Harvey Chapman, Orla Kerry, Timothy Issitt, Zuzu Younis, Caleb Mortimer

### P.E. Award:

Brayden O'Malley, Orla Kerry, Jackson Marriot, Melek Younis, Lucy Hird, Finn Rouse, Ella Mbofana, Lacey McClurg, Benjamin Herratt

### French Award:

Sam Pierpoint, Isla Thomas, William Barber, William Jones, Ella Aben

### German Award:

Harley Hudson

### Latin Award:

Ella Cooke

### Music Award:

Freddie Dedman, Bella Hawkins, Dylan O'Mahoney, Florence Arnold, Harley Hudson

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