

# Ickford News

The week flew by and, because of time out of school training, work has stacked up a little. I had the pleasure of returning to Hemel Hempstead again this week which seems to have become the epi-centre for Headteacher training. When I consider that I spent a short time as the Director of the International School in Monaco, I think I may have made a wrong turn at some point on the career path! I have nothing against a basement room in a Holiday Inn but it doesn't quite match overlooking the Port Hercules and the Casino. However, in the immortal words of Edith Piaf, Je ne regrette rien!

Having been amongst other headteachers listening to their accounts of school life, I can only be grateful! Several had schools being disrupted by industrial action and some were even planning to go on strike themselves. I empathise with their dissatisfaction but thank a higher power for the dedication of my team. With a number of maternity leaves to manage, this is certainly a period for the school I can describe as transitional. The fact that we are also being swamped with calls from parents who have not managed to secure a place for September, adds to the feeling that things may have to change. The Local Authority are now aware of some of the issues and the time may have come to sit down at the table with them to discuss the future. Some change can be managed easily enough but my instinct tells me that coming up are times for leadership rather than management. Rest assured, I shall be determined to do whatever is necessary to protect our identity and our standards of teaching and learning.

Talking of which, I was particularly pleased to be able to look at some of the learning taking place in younger children's classrooms this week and delighted to see the progress being made. It is really important to get the balance right in the Early Years so that the children can learn from every activity, whether it be play based or whether it has a degree of formality in the teaching. As we all know, Miss Daly has had to fill some big shoes (metaphorically speaking of course) in replacing Miss Vukomanovic but she is doing a great job and proving to be a valuable member of the team. Miss Southgate is also doing sterling work in class 2 and the dedication of both teachers supported by their teaching assistants, is ensuring that recent staff changes have almost gone unnoticed.

Our eldest children, those in year 6, will be taking their Standard Attainment Tests (SATs) in a couple of weeks and these are an important milestone for them as results will determine their start to Secondary school life. When talking to the other Headteachers early in the week and listening to how they had children in school during the Easter Holidays for study sessions and how some have been practising for tests since Christmas, I panicked a bit (particularly as I had no idea when the tests were taking place!) and rushed back to school to demand of Mme Basnett why we had not done any of this? How could we justify swanning around France and throwing parties at such an important time?

Had I really done this, I would probably have been walloped (she is a purple belt remember) and politely reminded to return to my office. The children at Ickford are well taught, over a number of years and have the best Year 6 teacher in the land supporting them. Let's party on and ne regrette rien!

Mr Ronane

## **News from the Office**

### **French Award**

Jacob Brookfield, Ella-Rose Cantwell-Wilkinson, Melek Younis, Elin Roberts

### **P.E. Award**

William Jones, George Middleton, Ella Aben, Luke Dungey, Edward Nicholls, Timothy Issitt, Molly Harding, Zak Flood, Harvey Chapman, Kathryn Hargreaves

### **German Award**

Sophie Winspear, Phoebe Boardman

### **Latin Award**

Kathryn Hargreaves

### **Music Award**

Freya Weeden, Oliver Evemy, Edward Pentecost, James Harris, Phoebe Boardman

### **Headteacher's Award**

Alexander Nicholls, Izzy Saunders, Asiya Hassine, Faye Kitchen, Beau Llewellyn

## **Coronation Party**

Friday May 5<sup>th</sup> All invited.

## **Our Sponsors**

