

# Ickford News

I imagine that the aftermath of the SATs testing for Key Stage 2 that took place this week, is going to give some poor, hapless civil servants a headache for some time judging by some of the adverse press they have received. I am not sure who actually writes the tests but, in their position, anonymity may be the only way to save themselves from the advancing lynch mob!

Mme Basnett did explain to me that the reading paper, the one that has generated the most public outrage, was particularly difficult in comparison with past papers and she was surprised by the level of inference needed in order to answer all of the questions. Some of the children I spoke to also said that it was the paper they found most challenging and tough to finish in the given time. Nonetheless, there were smiles all round today as they finished the last test and put this milestone behind them. I have watched with admiration how they have approached this week and I have no doubt that Mme Basnett has felt a genuine sense of pride due to the way they have accomplished so much with such little fuss.

I know that you don't get an animal fat by weighing it but, as every farmer will tell you, some sort of measurement helps you to assess progress and how much more food the animal needs. A rather crude analogy for testing but, I am not at liberty to redesign the assessment regime for the Department for Education so, we have to do the best we can for the children we have until such time as someone instructs us to do something different. I don't think any of the children will be scarred by their experiences this week and I hope they will feel empowered by having risen to the challenge and taken the opportunity to show what they can do. Now they have to move on and look forward to more challenges and learning experiences during the weeks they have left with us.

I know from experience that this term is going to fly by and will be over before we know it. I want to remind everyone, in particular parents that are new to the school, that our Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is made up of every parent who has a child in the school, by default, you are all members. However, it is the PTA committee, an elected body, that do most of the organisation of events and often they are the same, small group of people, that do all of the work. Jackie Thomas our Chair and Stuart Stevens our Vice Chair have asked if I would pop the following message into the Newsletter:

*Dear Parents,*

*Whilst Mrs Shackleton is busy fine-tuning the KS2 Summer Concert, the PTA are in full swing organising the drinks reception.*

*We are in need of a few pairs of hands on the evening to help serve the drinks. Ideally parents from KS1.*

*If there is anyone or a company that would like to sponsor this event, please do get in touch with us.*

*[ptaickfordschool@gmail.com](mailto:ptaickfordschool@gmail.com)*

*We will also shortly be looking for helpers to organise the Summer Fayre too, so let us know if you can get involved.*

*Thank you!*

I really appreciate everything that the PTA does for school and I can assure you that, without the sterling effort and generosity of parents, we would not be able to offer half as much

opportunity for children as we do. So, if you can spare some time or if there is a company that can get some kind of tax break that would enable a little sponsorship of the Summer Concert, please get in touch with the committee. I am sure you will be welcomed with open arms.

Finally, I put out an appeal for some more school lottery players last week so, if you have not already done so, please sign up and play. This is a good fundraiser for very little effort and as they say at Tesco, "every little helps".

Have a good weekend.

Mr Ronane

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