

Ickford News

Unfortunately, Miss Southgate was taken ill this week and I found myself having to step into the breach in her absence. Although, unprepared is not the state I would expect any decent teacher to adopt, it was certainly an adjective I would assign to a description of myself during the last two days.

Being plunged into the precarious waters of an infant classroom is not for the faint of heart particularly when one is stepping into the shoes of Miss Southgate. Nevertheless, it was an enjoyable and beneficial experience, not least because it gave me some understanding of life for Miss at the current time.

Teaching is always a challenge but it is more difficult at Ickford because of the mixed age group classes and the high expectations. That is not to say, unrealistic expectations because they are not. Our expectations of behaviour and good manners are, in my opinion, absolutely necessary in order to create an environment where all of the children can feel secure and able to learn. Furthermore, an environment where the teachers can carry out their primary role, teaching, with as little distraction as possible. With this fresh in my mind, I need to make a polite request that *every* parent goes through *every* article of their children's uniform and puts a clear name in it. Not a random name or a previous owners name, but the name of the child to whom the article of clothing belongs to now! I realise that I am paying people to walk round picking up discarded clothing which they then spend ages trying to relocate with its rightful owner. I promise I have witnessed Mrs Ellis doing this by feel and smell and I had to prise clothing away from her in fear that she might begin tasting it!

Thankfully, we have had a decent couple of days sunshine and it is great to see the children out and playing on the school field. It was also good to get Years 3, 4 and 5 to Aylesbury for some multi-skills activities which, by all accounts, was very successful and enjoyed by all. The feedback from the organisers was that they were amazed by how well the children from Ickford behaved and how supportive they were of each other. This sentiment was echoed by the representative from Bucks County Cricket who came in and worked with the children on Wednesday. Hopefully, we can measure how our cricket is developing this year when we compete in the school's tournament after the half term.

Thank you to those who have offered their support with the Summer BBQ or the Summer Concert. It is very much appreciated but I am still desperate to locate:

- A temporary portable bar
- A rice cooker
- A gas BBQ
- Marquee

If anyone can point me in the right direction I shall be grateful. The more we can get help with, the less we will need to spend and the more money we can raise towards play equipment for the children.

Hopefully, the weather for the Bank Holiday weekend and half term week will be good. It is Mme Basnett's birthday this weekend so I imagine that it will as she seems to be blessed with eternal sunshine wherever she goes! The academic year is disappearing very quickly and the last half term is going to be extremely busy for everyone. I hope that the children get a rest and come back determined to make the most of the final weeks at school which, for some, will be their last at Ickford.

Have a good week,

Mr Ronane

Award Winners

French Award

Lacey McClurg, Bella Hawkins, Isabella Parsler, Iyla Hitchcock, Phoebe Boardman

German Award

James Kendall

P.E. Award

Bella Hawkins, Jude Barnes, Frank Wilkinson, Elin Roberts, Sam Anzarouth, Sophie Vorotyntsova

Latin Award

Sophie Vorotyntsova

Music Award

Elsie Thomas, Ella Aben, Lucy Hird, Pippa Hunting, Sophie Vorotyntsova

Headteacher's Award

Jesse Jones, Oliver Evemy, Lucy Hird, Iyla Hitchcock, Brayden O'Malley

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