

# Ickford News

The Chelsea Flower Show, Royal Ascot, the Henley Regatta, Queens, Wimbledon... the social calendar, for those who like to be seen in the right places, is in full swing but, for those who can't stretch to a Philip Treacy hat or a pass to the Royal Enclosure, we offer Ickford's own sequence of Summer events begun in earnest by Friday evening's music concert.

I really should learn to prepare something to say to parents and guests after these events but I don't and usually risk offending someone albeit unintentionally. This year's faux pas was probably stating that one did not need talent to play a musical instrument which, in hindsight, may not have been the best thing to say in the presence of Mr and Mrs Shackleton who are both professional musicians of the highest order and extremely talented individuals. I think what I meant was, it does not take talent to pick up an instrument and start to learn to play it. What's needed to play it well is; the opportunity, patience, dedication to practise and, above all else, a good teacher and, I am delighted to say, we have the best!

I can't disguise that some of the enjoyment has gone out of watching the children perform since the events of the Christmas Carol concert. I did spend Friday watching closely for any signs of a wobble, a faint, or the drain of facial coloration that precedes projectile vomiting, wondering where the complaints might come from on Monday morning but thankfully, we ensured that we took no risks and the concert took place without a hitch.

I have no doubt that some of the audience attended under duress or out of a duty to feign interest but I am sure that, like me, most were amazed by both the collective and solo musicianship and the sheer joy the children got from singing and performing together. As I have always said, the aim of our music curriculum is to challenge the children and to expose them to a subject at school which offers them tangible rewards for their effort in the classroom. From their first weeks in school, they begin to learn notation and start their journey of learning to read music. By the time they reach year three, they are looking forward to learning the violin a discipline that, if you read any recent research, has multiple developmental benefits for all children that transfer not only to other subjects but to life itself.

I can't thank Mrs Shackleton enough for what she brings to our school, the amount of people who give up their time to support the Summer Concert highlights its eminent position in our end of year calendar. Thank you to Mr Shackleton for playing the piano, to Miss Grant for helping with the singing, to Jackie Thomas and family for organising refreshment and to past pupils for serving them, to DAF trucks and Thame Choir for sponsorship and to the teachers and teaching assistants for their work behind the scenes on the night. It is amazing and it makes me very proud especially when I know that all I have to do, is stand up at the end and make a few faux pas!

I hope to see you all at the Open Evening on Wednesday.

Mr Ronane



## **Awards this Week**

### **French Award**

Benjamin Herratt, Ella Aben, Bryony Ellis, James Harris,

### **Latin Award**

Sophie Winspear, Percy Jenkins

### **German Award**

Jago Miller

### **Music Award**

Benjamin Herratt, Jude Barnes, Bryony Ellis, Faye Kitchen, Max Smith

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

Drew Wyse, Izzy Saunders, Beatrix Walters, Assiya Hassine, Dylan O'Mahoney, Jacob  
Dungey, Harry Weeden, Kathryn Hargraves, Harvey Chapman

### **Head Teacher's Award**

Oliver Atkins, Finn Rouse, Amelia Vorotyntsova, Florence Arnold, Gwilym Walters

## Notes from the Office

Please ensure that you put your child's names in every piece of uniform.

Please apply sun cream to your child before they come to school if necessary.

## Dates

**Open Evening and Art Exhibition** Wednesday June 28<sup>th</sup> 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm.

**Summer BBQ** Friday July 7<sup>th</sup>

**County Cricket Finals** Tuesday July 11<sup>th</sup>

**Buckinghamshire District Athletics** Stoke Mandeville Stadium Wednesday July 12<sup>th</sup>

**Sports Day** Monday July 17<sup>th</sup>

**Optional Parent's Evening** Thursday July 13<sup>th</sup>

**Robin Hood performed by Upper KS2** Wednesday July 19<sup>th</sup>

## Sponsors

