

## Ickford News

I am not sure I can explain the absurdity of regarding getting to the end of the Autumn term as a significant milestone but it certainly seems that way. I think it was February when we became aware of Covid-19 and since then, a day has not passed without having to pay attention to it in some way.

I want to thank all of the parents because, if I am completely honest, there have been times during the year when I have had to take risks and yet, I have felt supported and trusted. Although, one tries to plan for every eventuality and indeed since becoming an Academy, I have had to write an Emergency and Business Continuity Plan (about as much fun as it sounds) no-one, in educational circles at least, predicted this and even the most confident have had to seek some divine intervention at times. Though it is far from over, I do believe that there is some light at the end of the tunnel and however difficult the post-Christmas period proves to be, I have no doubt that, if we continue to pull together, our school will stay strong, confident and resilient.

Mine is a job and an enjoyable rewarding one at that but it has always been recognised as such. I hope that once the pandemic is over, we will continue to recognise and thank those who have helped the sick, cared for the vulnerable and the elderly and worked hard in difficult conditions to keep the country going. We have tried to do a tiny bit for our Key Workers by keeping the school open during lockdown periods and will continue to do so should the situation worsen rather than improve in the future. On behalf of all the staff and children at Ickford, thank you to everyone who worked on the 'front line'.

I would also like to thank my Governing Body who have given me the space to lead but always in the knowledge that they are there to support me when necessary. Jenny, our

Chair and Brian our Vice-Chair, take as much pleasure from the success of Ickford as I do and, like every Governor, give of their time freely.

As I have said in a previous Newsletter, this week I'd have been describing the success of Carol Concerts and Pantomime trips but, there will be other opportunities. Not all was lost however and Mme Bassett took Class 5 to Bletchley Park on Monday to see where the code breakers, men and women, did so much for the war effort. The children wore face masks and had a thoroughly good day as the only visitors learning lots about the work of Alan Turing and the Enigma machine as well as everything else that went on at Bletchley. Perhaps it does them good to realise that whilst we may have to suffer the discomfort of a face mask for a while, it must certainly have been worse in the days when gasmasks and the threat of gas bombs were the concern of the day:

*"Although I could breathe in it. I felt as if I couldn't. It didn't seem possible that enough air was coming through the filter. The covering over my face, the cloudy Perspex in front of my eyes, and the overpowering smell of rubber, made me feel slightly panicky, though I still laughed each time I breathed out, and the edges of the mask blew a gentle raspberry against my cheeks. The moment you put it on, the window misted up, blinding you. Our mums were told to rub soap on the inside of the window, to prevent this. It made it harder to see than ever, and you got soap in your eyes. There was a rubber washer under your chin, that flipped up and hit you, every time you breathed in... The bottom of the mask soon filled up with spit, and your face got so hot and sweaty you could have screamed."*





**This Weeks Celebration Assembly  
Hall of Fame:**

**Music Award:**

Bruce Dingle  
Jasper Fletton  
James Harris  
Max Smith  
Oscar Neal

**PE Award:**

Lyla Gill  
Samuel Pierpoint  
Eliza Gapper  
Gwilym Walters  
Finlay Addis

**French Award:**

Isabella Hawkins  
Annabel Stevens  
Mia Makris  
Thomas Ansell-Hawes  
Anna Kerry  
Harriett Palmer

**German Award:**

Abigail Pedder

**Latin Award:**

Eleanor Hagues

**Headteachers Award:**

Henry Preston  
Matilda Ousley  
Emily-Jay Friday  
Keira Murphy  
Cassie O'Kennedy

**Consistent Achievement Awards**

Ilya Thomas Class 2

Sam Anzarouth Class 3

Matilda Stow Class 4

Jake Fletton Class 5

The highlight of the week for many of the children I imagine and certainly for the staff had to be the Christmas Lunch. The team that helped Mrs Anzarouth and Mrs Kendall the organisers, were brilliant and we are all very grateful. It was amazing to see the children's faces filled with excitement and to crank up the noise level with Christmas music and the sound of laughter! Everyone dressed up and I was impressed with some of the jumper slogans. Only two people suffered the ignominy of having purchased the same outfit...myself and Mr Shackleton!

I must apologise for our late exit from school today but 'she who must be obeyed' was not about to change her Christmas plans for anyone! Our Panto may not have been the usual raucous live event we have become used to however, I do think the children had fun. The final Celebration Assembly of the year was though 'special' and a lovely way to complete the term. For the first time, our new awards were included and four children were the first recipients of them. I hope to give many more of these in the future but they will not be easy to obtain.

Whilst I recognise it is not for the first time this year, I do want to make special mention of the staff team here at Ickford. The greatest support I have comes from them and at times when I know others would have given up or taken the first opportunity to jump ship, they have stuck with me and ensured that your children were in good, safe, caring and professional hands. I know that they have been overwhelmed by the gifts and cards today as I have and that they will want me to thank all of you on their behalf.

I wish you all a peaceful, safe and happy Christmas and I hope that the New Year is better for all of us.

Mr Ronane