

# Ickford News

Although, the start of a new academic year is a repetitive sequence for a Headteacher, I can say quite confidently that, nothing is ever certain (veterans of 2 years ago will understand) and very little can be assumed set in stone. Regardless of how many I experience, the first day nerves don't change and the initial anxiety doesn't decrease. Perhaps it is the fact that my work involves the most precious things in the world and the adrenalin of managing the unexpected that makes the job so addictive but, whatever it is, I love it and I am looking forward to the year ahead.

The spotlight always falls on two groups at this time of the year, the new Year 6 and the new children in the Early Years. Even though Year 6 are pretty well known to us, there is a marked difference in all of them when they become the pinnacle of the school and reach the heady heights of Mme Basnett's class. No longer part of a mixed aged classroom, they seem to become decidedly collegiate and much tighter as a group and already Mme Basnett has fired up the engines and set off on the journey of learning that is afforded to our oldest children each year. My advice to each of them is, make the most of it and enjoy it because as a classroom experience, it will never get much better. They have some big shoes to fill but I have no doubt that this cohort can rise to the challenge and set their own bar rather high.

Sometimes, I delay going into Class 1 for a while and avoid interacting with the new children so as not to unsettle them. Last year, I watched from a distance and, if I am honest, felt a little dismayed that quite few of the cohort seemed unprepared for school and rather reliant on having everything done for them.

This year is different. In fact, I am thinking of taking a month off (voluntarily) because there are a few new children who can run the school! I have some of the names to memory and I have already had some conversations with individuals going to and from the loo (them, youth and novelty me, old age and incontinence!). Miss Cashmore, (who looks remarkably like Miss Southgate) is delighted with her new charges and deserves a great deal of credit for how well the children have started off. Credit and thanks must also go to the parents who have assisted greatly by heeding the advice to leave as quickly as possible at drop off time. I am not foolish enough to think it will always be plain sailing but this start convinces me that the future is bright.

My apologies for the endless emails this week and I hope that the information has been unambiguous and useful. With each passing year, one hopes, to augment some form of legacy. If the legacy of my tenure is, a school recognised as constantly working hard to provide an outstanding learning environment then, I will take that. Sure, as Fred and Ginger sang, "There may be..." but I am happy to face the music and lead the dance.

Have a good weekend.

Mr Ronane

## Sponsors

Thank you to all of our sponsors this year. Please get in touch if you are interested in joining this group.

