

Ickford News

I must apologise for the lack of Newsletter last week although I recognise that readership may be actually quite minimal! (Mum) I shall endeavour to make up for it this week perhaps with some controversial point of view or long-winded account of a Netball match!

In fact, there was a Netball match this week and it was against Brill School so, it is fair to say, we can call it a 'derby'. To have been contacted by another school with a request for a 'friendly' (loosest use of the word here) was really welcomed, particularly in these days where I can see competitive sport for Primary children being gradually eroded in the name of 'participation and experience'. Brill turned up with their team and played well but victory eluded them on the day and our mixed squad stepped up and won fairly convincingly. I have agreed to travel to Brill next month for a Football match so we shall not celebrate the Netball result too much, our record in the 'round ball' game is certainly not as strong!

As much as I always want to fight against it, I cannot deny that., as one gets older, the sense of nostalgia for the past seems to grow stronger. A Harvest festival is always something that takes me back to my own childhood (maybe because it is at least something the health and safety agenda hasn't put a stop to) and in particular autumn days at school singing, making posters and, as children in London, watching grainy cine film of seagulls following tractors. The church in Ickford provides a beautiful backdrop to the Harvest Festival and its mediaeval acoustics lend themselves perfectly to the voices of the children belting out some good old fashioned, as well as some more contemporary, hymns.

Sadly, the church limited the numbers of those who could attend (more health and safety) and the congregation was limited to parents of children in Year 6. The decision to offer a repeat performance in the school hall on Thursday was taken up by many parents (mainly Infants) and I am at least satisfied that quite a few of you, got the same pleasure that I did out of hearing the children sing as well as listening to some reading aloud so confidently. Unfortunately, my yearning for the 'good old days' has not abated and I am seriously considering how I can organise a supervised, conker experience, wearing safety goggles, helmets and gloves! Everyone should get out this weekend and buy a pair of bootlaces to thread through a conker!



It is that time of year when we receive a lot of requests to tour the school. It is very difficult to gauge how many applications we will have for places in September 2024 and, if I am honest, I try not to think about it too much and accept that, what will be will be.

It was interesting this week to show around parents who already have a child in the school but missed the 'tour' at the time of her application, due to Covid. They were paired up with a couple completely new to the school, full of questions and very aware that they had other choices. You can imagine the pressure! Everything I said, was then followed by an anxious look for affirmation from the existing parent couple and I was dreading a sudden halt to proceedings initiated by an, "Actually, that's not true!" Thankfully, the tour seemed to be a success and it was actually great to get some feedback and, I am delighted to say, support from current parents. Whether the other couple will apply, I have no idea but rest assured, I am never complacent about filling the school or what we offer in respect to other 'choices'.

The next few years could be very important for us and I am currently trying to complete a longer-term strategic plan using an analysis tool that considers such things as political, economic and social influences. With the staff, we have been trying to agree on a definition, as far as possible, of what a 'first class Primary School education' looks like in order to work backwards from this as our ultimate goal. Challenging indeed but, necessary if we are to keep moving forwards and offering the best we can for your children.

Next week, there are parent evenings and I would encourage all of you to make sure you have booked an appointment. This early meeting is good for establishing what may need to be focussed upon in order to get the most from the year.

The week after is half term and I shall be pleased to see the new canopy area for the Reception children being installed. Hopefully, this will provide impetus for more improvements to their outside learning area and enhance the overall offer for our youngest children. Mind you, having had the pleasure of lunch with James, Alex and George (Yr. R) this week, I think this year's reception children may be better placed than me to run the school and I may just take a back seat and spend time perfecting my conkers! (not to self, avoid writing polishing)

Have a good weekend

Mr Ronane

PTA News

Tuesday 17th October - PTA AGM. 7.30pm Ickford Pavilion.

Friday 3rd November - Halloween Disco. Details to follow.

Friday 8th December - Christmas Fayre. 5-7pm.

Please head along and support Jackie and Tank. The funds raised by the PTA are crucial to our plans for the Reception area and our journey towards improvement.

Awards this Week

French Award

Zuzu Younis, Fred Ellis, Annabel Neal, George Jones, Molly Harding,

Latin Award

Sam Anzarouth

PE Award

Maya Warren, Edie Turner, Fred Ellis, Teddy Barber, Edward Nicholls, Ethan Crispin, Bryony Ellis, Frank Wilkinson, Beau Marriott, Sam Anzarouth

Music Award

Ottie Goode, Joey Hawkins, Wilf Evans, Beatrice Beckett, Poppie Klein

Head Teacher's Award

Zuzu Younis, Edie Turner, Sienna Jones, Isla Thomas, Emily-Jay Friday

Awards last Week

French Award

Jesse Jones, George Middleton, Grace Beckett, Lucy Hird, Beau Marriott

Latin Award

Sam Anzarouth

German Award

Faye Kitchen

Music Award

Edward Evemy, Alfie Peck, Stella Anzarouth, Issy Parsler, James Harris

PE Award

Matilda Atkins, William Jones, Barnaby Potter, Timothy Issitt, Henry Preston, Jude Barnes, Faye Kitchen

Head Teacher's Award

Drew Wyse, Vika Hardy, Grace Beckett, Bryony Ellis, Poppie Klein

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for keeping our school safe!