

Ickford News

We have reached the end of the first half term and I would imagine that the children and staff will welcome the short break. It has been a busy but positive start to the year and the highlight for me has certainly been the new children in Reception who seem to have taken to school easily and hopefully shaken off the, 'impacted by Covid tag' which is still being churned out as an excuse in education circles. The reality is that there are lots of things in the world that have an impact on children and, whether we like it or not, schools often have to compensate for the shortcomings of society and get on with it. My job is to try and ensure that we can do this as effectively as possible with limited financial, physical and human resources which sometime involves making tough decisions and having challenging conversations.

Most of you, I imagine, attended a parent evening last week and hopefully, the conversations were not too challenging! Having only been at school for around 7 weeks, there may not be a significant amount of learning evidence to look at but it is enough time for teachers to be able to assess children's needs going forward which sometimes means making suggestions of changes.

I am available during parents 'evenings but not usually needed. Nevertheless, I do like to check in with teachers in case there are any issues that may need looking at from a wider angle rather than from an individual perspective and, from these meetings, the topic I sense needs some clarification, is behaviour.

Recent research shows that across the country, children are potentially losing up to an hour of learning each day because of disruption in classrooms, equivalent to 38 days of teaching lost per year. Thankfully, this is certainly not the case at Ickford but that does not mean we can be complacent about it because, like it or not, the way in which children behave, is strongly correlated with their eventual outcomes. Furthermore, low level disruption and the time that is taken in dealing with it not only impacts on pupils involved but also on the rest of the children in the class and the well being of teachers. Therefore, I am absolutely committed to ensuring that the high expectations we have when it comes to behaviour remain.

Having high expectations about behaviour does not mean being oppressive and I get disappointed when Headteachers choose not to discuss issues or indeed challenge them through fear of being viewed as 'strict' or 'authoritarian'. In order to keep children safe, prevent bullying, encourage learning and retain staff, it is imperative that behaviour is good and that poor behaviour is challenged. The key to our success is consistency, clarity and the insistence that every member of staff takes responsibility for it. There may be some children who, at times, do not like it but, I know that one day, they will look back and thank us for it.

It is because of having great behaviour that we are able to enjoy events such as the fantastic House Netball competition that took place during the week. We held a Year 3/4 competition and a Year 5/6 one over three days and the House Captains demonstrated great leadership in choosing and managing their teams so that a large number of children got the chance to represent their House. It was competitive so not everyone got the opportunity to be selected but those that did not, took the opportunity to offer very loud vocal support from

the side of the court, making for a great atmosphere for every match. Red House came out on top in the Year 3/4 pool and Yellow House proved the strongest in Year 5/6 beating Blue House in an exciting final and taking the overall first place and the House Cup.

Have a good half term

Mr Ronane

News from the Office

Miss Van de Venter will not be with us after half term but I am delighted to announce that Miss Allen will be returning as the Class teacher in Class 2.

The minutes from the PTA meeting should be attached with the Newsletter as well as a letter from Jackie Thomas the Chair.

Please note that every piece of uniform must be clearly labelled with the child's name.

Extra-curricular clubs can be booked and paid for during half term.

Congratulations

We have another National Champion! Oisin Harrell (Class 4) won the Great Britain Irish Dancing Championship at the weekend- well done Oisin!



Awards this Week

French Award

Henry Hurn, Molly Parry, Alistair Robinson, Timothy Issitt, Iyla Hitchcock,

Latin Award

Stanley Johnson

German Award

Eliza Gapper

Music Award

Fred Ellis, Jude Barnes, Elin Roberts, James Harris, Sam Anzarouth

PE Award

Edward Evemy, Jacob Issitt, Anabel Stevens, Lucy Hird, Stanley Johnson, Thomas Ansell-Hawes

Head Teacher's Award

Boden Crispin, Frederick Dedman, Melek Younis, Anabel Stevens, Evie Evans

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