

Ickford News

“Believe me, my young friend, there is nothing - absolutely nothing - half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats.” I am sure that, if I posed the question, who said this? There would be many of you who would give me the answer and I am hopeful that some of the children in Class 4 might now be able to as well.

The conversation comes from the children's book "The Wind in the Willows", by Kenneth Grahame. In the story, Mole and Rat are rowing up the river in Rat's boat. They are discussing nautical things and life in general and Rat sums up the perfect way the spend time. It is a beautiful, classic tale about friendship and I would encourage everyone, young and old, to read it.

The children in class 4 had a great day out this week when they visited the Henley Rivers and Rowing Museum which included a workshop of creative challenges, to explore the connections between Grahame's characters and the real habitats and wildlife that inspired them. The children also learned a great deal about the meanderings (literally) of rivers and their importance not only as geographical features but also as places for leisure activities, trade routes, places of work and wildlife. Indeed, I am told that they were not deterred by the horrendous downpour during the trip and even saw a Heron take and swallow a whole fish! Hopefully, the children have come away from the trip inspired to protect our rivers or maybe even to row one day. Let's not forget that Amelia Gleed, a former pupil, took part in this trip and ended up rowing for Great Britain!



There is another book that I would encourage everyone to read (and to your children), particularly if you have an interest in local history, called Farmer Giles of Ham. The author is none other than JRR Tolkien of Lord of the Rings and the Hobbit fame and it is about the encounters between Farmer Giles and a wily dragon named Chrysophylax. The really fascinating part of this story is its connection to our location and the town of Thame. Scholars of Tolkien (who lived and worked in Oxford for many years) maintain that the tale is "an elaborate false explanation for the name of the Buckinghamshire village of Worminghall" and by the end, Giles becomes Lord of Tame and Count of Worminghall. Obviously, this is fiction as we all know that Mme Basnett is Queen of Thame, Ickford and the surrounding area!

Nonetheless, a lovely story book that I am hoping we can build into the curriculum to engage the children and, who knows, help produce the next Tolkien.

Below we have reproduced some important dates for your diaries but one I want to promote is the Parents Maths Workshop on Thursday November 23rd which is being led by Mme Basnett our Maths lead.

This session will cover the way in which Maths is taught in the school and the calculation methods that the children use throughout their progress in the Key Stages. I know that many of you are young but there have still been significant changes in approach towards maths over the past 15 years or so and it is often a subject that can cause confusion at home and a concern about 'not doing it in the way we learned at school'. Hopefully, Mme Basnett will get a good turnout and you can be assured of a 'safe space' where you can ask questions and share any anxieties you may have.

On another note, we are keen to get some more parents involved in listening to children read. We have some really dedicated parents who give up an hour or so every week to do this and their commitment is invaluable to us. It does require a regular commitment and you need to be sure that you have time and can do this. Please don't worry about having skills to teach children to read because that is not what we want. What we need are adults who can listen to children, engage in conversation about the book and give some support with reading the text. If you feel this could be you then please contact me directly by email headteacher@ickford.org.uk and I will take it from there.

Have a good weekend

Mr Ronane

Awards this Week

French Award

Jack Evans, Freddy Dedman, Babs Smith, Evie Evans

Latin Award

Iyla Hitchcock

German Award

Beau Marriott

Music Award

Matilda Atkins, Freddy Dedman, Bruce Dingle, Asees Samrai, Emily-Jay Friday

PE Award

Zuzu Younis, Amelia Vorotyntsova, Bella Hawkins, Andrew Robinson, Isla Thomas, Aiden Barnes, Pippa Hunting

Head Teacher's Award

Henry Hurn, Lacey McClurg, Isabella Hawkins, Lucy Hird, Emily Aspden

Important Dates:

Thursday 23 rd November	Parent Maths Workshop Year 1+	19:00 – 20:00
Tuesday 28 th November	Class 5 Trip to Bletchley Park	
Friday 8 th December	Christmas Jar and Jumper Day	
Friday 8 th December	Christmas Fayre	17:00 - 19:00
Monday 11 th December	Carol Concert	18:30 – 20:30
Tuesday 12 th December	Nativity Afternoon Performance	14:15 – 15:15
Wednesday 13 th December	Nativity Evening Performance	19:00 - 20:00
Thursday 14 th December	Christmas Lunch	
Friday 15 th December	Celebration Assembly	14:30 - 15:30
Friday 15 th December	Christmas Holidays	
Thursday 4 th January	New Term Starts	

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