

Ickford News

You may be at home practising your 'bus stop' method or doing a little 'chunking' with your friends over a coffee. If you are or, if you have any idea what I am talking about, you are either a Primary School teacher or you went to Madame Basnett's Maths workshop last night. By all accounts (I was banned) it was a really successful event and well supported so, my thanks on Madame's behalf and I look forward to hearing about the progress your children will be making. What those present may have discovered is that, whilst understanding the methods are one thing that helps, the enthusiasm of the teacher is another and we are blessed to have teachers with this in abundance, particularly her ladyship!

It is the time of year when things begin to get really busy and this time next week will be the day in which we let Madame, who, for those who don't know, is also Queen of Christmas, loose on the music system. That means Christmas tunes at Breakfast Club and on her car stereo when she sweeps into the car park! For us mere mortals we need to keep an eye on the diaries so that we don't miss any of the events and we ensure that the children are in the right place at the right time with the right things.

In spite of the absence of Madame, this morning's Celebration Assembly was a pleasure to attend (I know I have a certain bias) and, as always, I felt very proud of the children. It is a pleasure to hand out certificates and to read the Golden Book mentions but also really gratifying to see the children celebrating each other's success. Although, the youngest may view the whole process as a competition, I know from experience that, as the children get older, they become more aware of the recognition of effort and take greater pleasure from watching their friends awarded especially when they have witnessed the effort being made. We acknowledge effort, diligence, commitment, enthusiasm and positive behaviour, not only to say, 'thank you' but also in the hope that all children will aspire to the same heights.

We recognise that some children work consistently hard and that some find certain aspects of school easier than others, these children may easily be considered for an award every week so, with this in mind, we have very special achievement awards, that are given out at certain points in the year, to acknowledge the consistently high standards these children accomplish. As someone responsible for the PE and Sports, I have decided that the weekly certificate does not always give enough credit to the consistent achievers who through a combination of natural talent and sheer hard work, perform to a high standard and help maintain the solid foundation that our competitive success is founded on. Therefore, we shall now be awarding 'colours' to these pupils in the form of a new badge when we hand out achievement awards. Sadly, as I have mentioned before, the competitive sports programme has diminished over the past few years and whereas once we would, by this time of year, have competed against other schools in KS1 multi skills events and KS1 indoor athletics, we no longer have the opportunity.

Lots to look forward to next week including taking delivery of a new storage building thanks to SAS Wireless Systems and a trip to Bletchley Park for Class 5 to do some code breaking.

Have a good weekend.

Mr Ronane

Awards this Week

French Award

Lizzie Landragan, Zeynep Konak, Edward Nicholls, Bryony Ellis, Poppie Klein

Latin Award

Orla Kerry

German Award

Thomas Ansell-Hawes

Music Award

Riona Harrell, Oliver Atkins, Ethan Crispin, Isla Thomas, Eliza Gapper

PE Award

George Tinkler, Sophie Potter, Jaydon Magennis, Babs Smith, Izzy Saunders, Henry Preston, Edward Pentecost, Issy Parsler, Emily-Jay Friday

Head Teacher's Award

Matilda Atkins, Freddy Dedman, Ethan Crispin, Frank Wilkinson, Eliza Gapper

Important Dates:

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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