

Ickford News

Whilst showing around some visitors to school this morning, I was called to an emergency. A crowd had formed at the school gate and some of its members were getting rather restless and making their opinions heard. I made my excuses to our visitors and rushed out to quell the riot. If the Darby and Joan Club want to be invited back, they are going to have to behave themselves in the queue for the concerts!

Once in from the cold, the good ladies, chaperoned by Mr Fred Ellis, debonair stalwart of the Ickford Community, calmed down and took their seats in the hall without further disruption. In fact, I am delighted that not only did the eldest members of our community sit quietly, so did the very youngest as we all enjoyed another visit from the outstanding Carducci Quartet.

I doubt that if we canvassed anyone in Bucks or Oxfordshire this morning and asked where to find a performance from a world class string quartet today, they would have said Ickford School. Nonetheless, that was the place to be and once again, I feel exceptionally privileged to have been able to provide the children with such a memorable opportunity.

It is impossible to avoid some of the distressing news involving young people and violent crime at the moment and much of the debate surrounding origins of the problem, seems to suggest that youngsters lack purpose in their lives and role models. If only there were more role models like the Carducci Quartet and more young people being challenged by the discipline of learning to play a musical instrument. Not only are the Quartet superb musicians, their energy, enthusiasm and smiling faces are

infectious and this morning they gave a superb demonstration of how to engage children in learning.

I have used these pages before to sing (maybe out of tune) the praises of our own virtuoso performer and teacher, Mrs Shackleton and no apologies for doing so again. She is an incredible musician herself (the Quartet agree!) and a superb teacher. Singlehandedly, she is inspiring all of the children and teaching them all to read music from an early age.

I am not naïve enough to believe that every child will continue with the violin when they leave Ickford (some may return to the recorder!) but I do hope that those who do are influenced by the musicians we have brought them into contact with during their time at Ickford, Mr and Mrs Shackleton, the Carducci Quartet and Nicola Benedetti. All of whom epitomise dedication, perseverance and passion. My other hope is that those children who do not continue with the violin, may take up other instruments or at the very least, retain some love for classical music.

I am not certain we will be able to convince the Cavatina Trust, who generously fund the Carducci to visit schools, that we deserve another (I shall try) but we will continue to promote music and we shall look for more opportunities to take children to see live performances. Most importantly, I shall be making sure that Mrs Shackleton has everything she needs to convince her that Ickford is the place to be. I know these musicians can be a temperamental bunch perhaps they all join the Darby and Joan club when they retire! Of course I jest, I was delighted to see the local community in the school today and really hope that they enjoyed it.

Mr Ronane

Ickford News from the office

Dates for your diary...

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|---|------------------------------|
| 14 th March | Class 3 Trip to Ufton Court |
| 18 th March | Class 4 - Echoes Performance |
| 22 nd March | PTA Quiz Night |
| 23 rd March | Waddesdon Cross Country |
| 25 th – 29 th March | Y5&6 Residential |
| 3 rd April 9am | Class 3 Assembly |
| 4 th April 9am | Celebration Assembly |
| 5 th April | Inset Day |
| 23 rd April | Inset Day |
| 24 th April | Summer Term Begins |

School Lottery

If you would like the chance to win, and support the school, please click on the link below and get signed up!

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/ickford-school>



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QUIZ OF THE YEAR

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Looking for a different quiz? Something that's a mix of A Question of Sport; Ask the Family; Screen Test and the Big Fat Quiz of the Year. Then join us at the Ickford School quiz of the year. We'll use film and TV clips, music, sounds and more, to truly test your general knowledge and more....

Teams of up to 8 people or we can put you in a team on the night.

£8 per person, includes a hot meal and cheese board.

FRIDAY 22 MARCH - 7PM
ICKFORD VILLAGE HALL

TO JOIN THE QUIZ OF THE YEAR CONTACT:
BEN.SAYER@HOTMAIL.CO.UK