

Ickford News

If you look are someone who checks the school website for new content, then you may have come across the two new galleries in the Class 5 page. One is an opportunity to look at some pottery that the children have created and the other is a pictorial record of the trip to Bletchley Park that took place on Tuesday of this week.

This has become a staple in the Class 5 calendar because it links with their study of conflict in the first and second world wars and also because it provides opportunities for maths and problem-solving work. Furthermore, the story of Alan Turing the mathematician, cryptanalyst and computer scientist also enables the children to consider the treatment of others and the changes in the attitudes of society towards minorities and genders.

In reality, one thing that can be taken away from a visit to Bletchley is that the Turing story and subsequent, award winning film, the Imitation Game, whilst perhaps the reason that Bletchley Park has captured the public imagination, it is only a small part of the Bletchley narrative. Our visit really did highlight to the children the phenomenal work carried out by approximately 10,000 employees at Bletchley almost 75% of whom were women and all of whom were bound by the official secrets act, to never mention their work to anyone.

One particularly moving story was that of First Lieutenant F.A.B. Tony Fasson, a Scotsman who, together with Able Seaman Colin Brazier, from Staffordshire, dived from the ship, HMS *Petard*, and swam towards a sinking German submarine or U boat. Behind them, in one of the ship's boats, came 16-year-old canteen assistant Tommy Brown, who had lied about his age when joining up at just 15. Fasson and Brazier went into the sinking submarine and gathered papers which they handed to Brown who kept them dry and managed to get them back on board the *Petard*. In spite of Brown's shouts of warning, the two men kept diving into the bowels of the stricken vessel and were eventually drowned as it sank to the depths of the Atlantic Ocean.

At the time, work at Bletchley had slowed and the code breakers like Turing were having difficulty cracking the new alterations to the Enigma machines leaving merchant navy ships at the mercy of the German U boats targeting supplies to England. The papers saved by Fasson and Brazier had the information to break the new codes and their contribution helped change the course of the Second World War, saving an estimated 1,250,000 tons of shipping in just two months and paving the way for D-Day in 1944 and the eventual victory of the Allies a year later.

The visit was a great success and Mme Basnett was immensely proud when one of the tour guides took the time to tell her how wonderful he thought the children were. Not only was he impressed by their courteous manners and behaviour but also with their knowledge and enthusiasm to learn more. Having been a Headteacher once, his commendations meant a great deal.

Have a good weekend.

Mr Ronane

Awards this Week

French Award

Matilda Atkins, Willa Goode, Sienna Jones, Isla Thomas, Iyla Hitchcock, Aiden Barnes

Latin Award

Emily Aspden

German Award

Stanley Johnson

Music Award

Annabelle Whittall, Jacob Alfrey, Luke Dungey.

PE Award

James Harris, Benjamin Herratt, Kirk O'Malley, Sienna Jones, Matilda Ousley, Anabel Stevens, Emily Aspden,

Head Teacher's Award

Otis Woods, Caleb Mortimer, Beatrix Walters, William Barber, Beau Marriott

Important Dates:

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	
Thursday 14 th December	Netball Match vs Bledlow Ridge	15.30 – 16.30
Friday 15 th December	Celebration Assembly	14:30 - 15:30
Friday 15 th December	Christmas Holidays	
Thursday 4 th January	New Term Starts	



Sponsors

