

Ickford News

I should dedicate this entire newsletter to Jackie Thomas (and Paul Thomas) and the PTA committee, such is the depth of my gratitude to them for organising, setting up, running and clearing up yesterday's Christmas Fayre. For personal reasons, December 8th is never a good day for me and, aside from a loud shirt, I could not really involve myself in the event this year and relied solely on the goodwill of others. I know that Jackie had some support but she really is the driving force and without her, I am not sure we would be able to hold these events at this time. I won't try and name those who helped Jackie as I will miss people out but, rest assured, if you ran a stall, served food and drinks and helped with the clean up my thanks are for you as well. Obviously, I also want to thank everyone who came along, supported the event and parted with their hard-earned money. I am hoping to get the surface outside of class 1 completed fairly quickly and most of this cost should be met by money raised by the PTA.

At the current time I am working with contractors and consultants on a bid for funding to replace the boilers in the sports hall which are really on their last legs. This is a significant project for the school but I am hopeful we will only have to pay a small percentage of the overall cost if we can lodge a successful bid. The sports hall is almost 20 years old and whilst it is still a brilliant asset for us, it needs some expensive refurbishment. Our next challenge is to find enough money to replace the sprung floor and this is going to require approximately £20,000. I hope to talk to the PTA about channelling any fundraising towards this target and looking at other ways in which we can reach this target. Keep your eyes peeled for the appearance of a large thermometer prominently displayed on the side of the school showing the fundraising progress!

It is a rather sad indictment of the age we live in that so much of what we want to do in school is reliant on good will and generosity, whether it be finance, time or expertise. However, I am delighted to be surrounded by some very good people one of whom, Andrew Pentecost, (Edward in Class 4) came in this week equipped with some very high-tech virtual reality headsets and spent the morning with Class 5 engaging, inspiring and filling them with awe and wonder. Possibly the most surprising fact was that, the original concept of a virtual world experience was developed not in the 21st century but back in the 1960s! Nevertheless, Andrew helped the children to research some of the exciting potential there is for using this technology in the world and how it is already impacting on many areas of industry and manufacturing. The children were very fortunate to have this opportunity and I am very grateful to Andrew for giving up his time. We do have pictures however, they are not to hand so I shall post them on the website in the class 5 gallery as soon as I can.

Earlier in the week, the same children were also inspired by an expert in a different field, that of medical research and pharmaceutical development, Dr Justin Green. Justin is an old friend of mine and this is his second time at Ickford. He is very experienced in his field and has led projects developing vaccines for malaria, HIV in children and also stopping the spread of the SARS virus that preceded Covid as a pandemic in the 21st century.

Pictures are up on the website but the ones reproduced here show just how much the children enjoyed his visit. Taking the trouble to bring in equipment as well as linking the children with a member of his team at Astra Zeneca to give them a genuine insight in life as a scientist was

very generous of Justin and I fear it may cost me a couple of beers when I next see him! It will of course be worth it and I should probably take Andrew Pentecost with me so that we can toast the next generation of scientists and world changers!



Finally, another thank you to Mme Basnett and Mrs Hagues and the group of children who went along to the village church last weekend and performed the play about the life of St Nicholas the Bishop of Myra and thought to be the origins of the 'Father Christmas' tradition. The children were excellent and Anita Tansey the Church Warden said that his was probably the best performance that she had seen. Once again, I leave it up to you to look at the photographic evidence and the smiles on the faces of the children.

Have a good weekend.

Mr Ronane



Awards this Week

French Award

Sophia Xenos Glynn, Elsie Thomas, Ella Aben, Isabelle Parsler, Sam Anzarouth

Latin Award

Eliza Gapper

German Award

Eliza Gapper

Music Award

Jack Beckett, Benjamin Herratt, Bella Hawkins, Emily Coxon, Edward Pentecost, Oliver Jolliffe

PE Award

Arthur Saunders, Harrison O'Mahoney, Molly Parry, Bruce Dingle, Xavier Flood, Dylan O'Mahoney,
George Jones, Iyla Hitchcock

Head Teacher's Award

Riona Harrell, Jacob Alfrey, Charlie Kendall, Beatrice Beckett, Faye Kitchen

Important Dates:

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	

Notes

Please ensure that all items of uniform are correctly labelled so that we can return them to the correct children.

Note that registration takes place at 9.00 am so please ensure your children arrive in time to take coats off etc.

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