

## Ickford News

The end of a term is never easy for me because I really enjoy being at work and always feel that maybe I could have done more during the term for the children and the staff to achieve success. However, it is not time for regrets just a pause for reflection and a feeling of optimism that we are well prepared for any challenges the new year may bring. It goes without saying that this week has been quite hectic but a great deal has been achieved and there has been plenty to smile about, a few things that may have caused tears, and a lot for the staff and parents to take credit for.

The Christmas lunch was a resounding success yesterday and it was humbling to see so many parents give up their time to arrange this. I have to give a 'shout out' (again I am down with the lingo) to The Old Fisherman in Shabbington who provided the food. It was very good indeed and it was great to see plenty of empty plates and a queue for seconds! The crackers were very upmarket and I was impressed by the silver crowns and 'useful' gifts. However, the number of bottle openers did suggest that we were sponsored by Budweiser! Of course, the highlight of the afternoon was the visit from Santa who, resplendent in his customary red suit and ringing his bell, whipped the children up into a frenzy before disappearing probably back to Lapland or possibly somewhere more local.



The carol service on Monday was superb and, unlike last year, went according to plan providing a platform for the children in Key Stage 2 to shine from. Emily-Jay Friday started proceedings with a poignant solo before a number of various rousing carols both modern and

traditional, ensured that we all knew Christmas had well and truly arrived. Those in any doubt, may have been in the audience for Tuesday and Wednesday Nativity performances by Key Stage 1 which were also beautifully performed and had everyone experiencing a whole range of emotions and clapping every song.

I recognise that some may object to the Nativity being slightly comic but, to be honest, any nativity is, in reality very far removed from the actual events surrounding the birth of Jesus. I am happy that the children enjoyed taking part in these two Christmas events and that their experience is one of joy, making their families proud and beginning to denote their journeys through life with experiences that they may one day look back on.

For me, this year's events were difficult to separate from the reality that, as adults, we can't escape from. I shall share an excerpt from an email I received following the carol service which, in my opinion, relays the truth so eloquently:

We were remembering Jesus, his birth, his family, Bethlehem (بيت لحم), Nazareth (الناصرة /an-Nāṣira) and all I could think was that in his land... and his birthplace currently there is only mourning and loss, only prayers for peace, only fear and uncertainty for survival...  
...a solemn reminder of how lucky we are for our safety, tolerance and respect of one another and that our beautiful children can carry on with festivities whilst there is so much pain in the birthplace of Christmas.

Although there has not been a great deal of inter school sport to report on this term, we have had two very successful House competitions and next half term we shall be aiming to hold the House Cross Country event. Hopefully, this will act as a selection for the Schools Cross Country competition on March 16<sup>th</sup> when we will enter a team as well as individual runners. Our Netball League matches finally got started yesterday afternoon when the 5/6 team took on Bledlow Ridge School under the floodlights. We started well, scoring 10 goals in the first quarter to Bledlow's 2 but, with three strong boys in their squad, they began to defend more successfully and, though they did not trouble us too much in terms of scoring, they did gradually begin to stifle our attack. The final score was 21 – 4 to Ickford so a good start to the league campaign but plenty to work on.

Having just completed a five-year strategic plan, I am looking forwards to the new year and I am excited about what we can achieve collectively in the future. We shall of course be reviewing the children's learning in the next few days and you will get an update of progress when the Spring term begins. The children need a break but I would advise every parent to encourage their children to spend time, during the holiday, reading. This is the foundation of everything and now is an ideal time to foster that love of books.

I have prayed every week with the children and staff for those close to us who have not enjoyed good health recently, I promise that I shall continue to do so. I want to thank everyone, on behalf of the staff, for your support and for the many gifts and cards that have been sent in and I want to thank all of you, from a personal perspective, for the support you have given me.

Have a happy and peaceful Christmas.  
Mr Ronane

# Awards this Week

## French Award

Ottie Goode, Oliver Atkins, Charlie Kendall, Bryony Ellis, Beau Marriott, Emily-Jay Friday

## Latin Award

Orla Kerry

## German Award

Emily Aspden, Poppie Klein

## Music Award

Rogan Reeve, George Middleton, Barnaby Potter, Oliver Aspden, Orla Kerry

## PE Award

Tobi Wood, Vika Hardy, Charlie Kendall, William Barber, Sam Anzarouth

## Head Teacher's Award

Annabelle Whittall, William Jones, Michaela Mbofana, Emily Coxon, Iyla Hitchcock

## Sports Colours

**Year 6** - Faye Kitchen, Molly Harding, Evie Evans, Pippa Hunting, Poppie Klein, Orla Kerry

Molly Harding

**Year 5** – Zak Flood, Elin Roberts, Edward Pentecost, Harry Middleton, Dylan O'Mahoney

**Year 4** – Anabel Stevens, Edward Nichols

**Year 3** – Bruce Dingle, Henry Preston

**Year 2** – Ella Rose Cantwell-Wilkinson, Fred Ellis

## Achievement Awards

Emily-Jay Friday, Evie Evans, Sam Anzarouth, Orla Kerry, Emily Aspden, Pippa Hunting, Isla Thomas, Elin Roberts, Ethan Crispin

## Important Dates:

Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	New Term Starts	
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## Notes

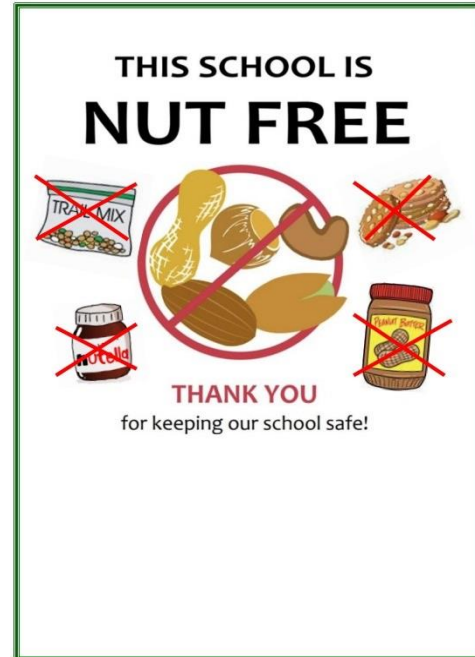
Please ensure that all items of uniform are correctly labelled so that we can return them to the correct children.

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

## Sponsors



TIDDINGTON  
GARAGE



The children in Year 6 wrote, made and read books for the children in Class 1