

Ickford News

I have been in therapy since last Friday but my therapist is not sure that I can ever recover from having to close the school. Although I could get through the flood water, it was the worst I have seen in my time here and only Noah himself could have got every child in safely.

This first full week has been much better and, apart from freezing temperatures and the necessary salt spreading, I am pleased that the rain has abated and the children have been able to get out on to the playground at break times.

The closure did delay us in getting the end of the autumn term assessment details out to parents but hopefully, you have all now received this. I am well aware that some of you may look at this data and be concerned (some may not bother) which, is a good thing because it shows that you care. However, progress is not an exact science and we must remember we are working with children here, all with different personalities, interests and levels of development.

As you would expect, I scrutinise the tracking data and spend time in conversation with every teacher discussing pupils and looking for ways in which we can support growth. I can affect what we do in classrooms but I can't do much about the support from home apart from keep flagging up the difference it makes in a child's journey. If you do nothing else, ensure full attendance, ensure your children read and talk to them in full sentences.

We are doing some significant work on language and spelling at the moment and I am enjoying doing some research with the teachers and trying to develop new ideas for improving spelling across the whole school. First and foremost, we need to engage and enthuse the children about our language and how it has evolved over hundreds of years. English is indeed difficult but also fascinating and hopefully we can get every child to be a 'spelling detective'. You can help by spotting unusual words in the environment, encouraging spelling games like Scrabble, i-Spy, Boggle, Hangman and crosswords and generally helping the children to appreciate the complexity of the language and valuing their efforts.

Having waited several years, (4 to be precise) the Department for Education has, at last, updated and published the National data for schools on the Gov.Uk website and now shows the results for 2023. I have reproduced our data below but if you want to make comparisons with other schools you can head to Gov.uk and do this. Obviously, I am delighted that we came out top in Buckinghamshire again and, having maintained this position for several years, I can say with some certainty that, whilst the progress rates may fluctuate over the course of a child's time here, we can demonstrate that the teaching is building year upon year and enabling the gap between children to close sufficiently so that all achieve.

The academic progress that pupils make from the end of key stage 1 to the end of key stage 2.

Reading

The banding for this school is 'well above average' because the score is greater than or equal to 3.1, and the entire confidence interval is above 0.

Banding	WELL ABOVE AVERAGE
Score	6.9
Confidence interval ?	3.8 to 9.9

Writing

The banding for this school is 'well above average' because the score is greater than or equal to 2.9, and the entire confidence interval is above 0.

Banding	WELL ABOVE AVERAGE
Score	3.4
Confidence interval ?	0.4 to 6.3

Maths

The banding for this school is 'well above average' because the score is greater than or equal to 3.2, and the entire confidence interval is above 0.

Banding	WELL ABOVE AVERAGE
Score	5.3
Confidence interval ?	2.4 to 8.2

We are a school that, amongst other things, values academic achievement. I know that some schools may be more 'fashionable' in setting their stalls out but I still believe that we empower children by ensuring that they are literate and numerate before they move on to Secondary school. Yes, at times, they may feel some pressure but hopefully, we all recognise that, pressure makes diamonds.

Have a good weekend.

Mr Ronane

Awards the Week

French Award

Gracie Gill, Fred Ellis, Oliver Aspden, William Barber, Iyla Hitchcock

Latin Award

Emily Aspden

German Award

Thomas Ansell-Hawes

Music Award

Zuzu Younis

PE Award

Riona Harrell, Freddy Williams, Millie Snelling, Ronin Reeve, Isla Thomas, Edward Pentecost, James Harris

Head Teacher's Award

Rogan Reeve, Anna Roberts, Babs Smith, Timothy Issitt, Molly Harding

Notices

Can everyone ensure that the Uniform Policy is being followed please? Hats must be school as agreed on the policy and all items of uniform should be labelled clearly.

Please ensure that you are up to date with payments for extra- curricular clubs.

Sponsors

