

Ickford News

Some of the children have been sailing the high seas this week in the hope of finding defenceless cargo ships laden with rich pickings to which the Pirates of Ickford can help themselves! Others have carefully studied treasure maps and been spotted searching the grounds for where...X marks the spot! Even yours truly has turned a hand at producing pirate hats and encouraged plenty of, "Shiver me timbers" and "Ahoy me hearties" (they will be coming to take me away later on). There is something about Piracy that can still capture the imagination and provide a great topic for the children not just to be imaginative but also to learn about real history and to be inspired by the past.

When reading from the Golden Book in assembly this morning, I was struck by two things. First, the level at which the children in the Early Years are working at and second the range of subjects that the children access in school. We had children in Reception applauded for their resilience in solving number problems as well as for writing sentences independently and we had children across year groups being congratulated for Science investigations, Computing achievements, Art and even being, 'excellent explorers'. In a week that several people got in touch about the mention in the Bucks Free Press (not quite a broadsheet I know but still the press) it is important to recognise that Ickford is more than just its English and Maths results and we are still working hard to offer a broad curriculum and engaging school experience.

Now, it's not Jolly Roger but Sir Martyn Oliver who is the new Chief Inspector for OFSTED and it was interesting to read the report on his first major interview in the role. Clearly, he faces challenges, particularly in restoring faith in the inspectorate following the tragic suicide of a Headteacher last year after an inspection but, he has made it clear that behaviour in schools and attendance will be high on the OFSTED agenda. I hope we may see a new era of common sense and clarity in the regime but, only time will tell and we can only continue to do our best in providing a good education for the children who come here.

As I replied to one personal email this week, I only drive the bus nowadays, it is the people on board that are making the real difference and I want to flag up some of the great work being undertaken by our learning support staff. Miss Cooper and Miss Hudson have joined forces to lead on Art in KS1 with great effect and their infectious enthusiasm and expertise is helping inspire creativity in all of the children. Mrs Ellis, on top of running the library, organising book clubs and supporting handwriting, is continuing her mission to make pastoral support integral to the 'Ickford Way' and I was delighted to meet with her yesterday to discuss some ideas she has that I feel will be very beneficial to the children. Mr Woodley (who I believe has coveted the look of a pirate in recent weeks) is becoming King of the wooden blocks and I am not sure if it is him or the children who has more fun in creating things! With Miss Silvera assisting Maths Club and Mrs Snell doing the sort of thing that only she can, we are in a good place and sailing in the right direction.

It has been bitterly cold this week but Ickford children are a touch bunch and spirits are high. We have, I hope, agreed a price to have new soft pour surface installed in the EYFS outdoor area and under the climbing wall. The good news is that the work may be carried out during early February so fingers crossed. In the meantime, have a good weekend.

Mr Ronane

Awards this Week

French Award

Otis Woods, Edward Barber, Luna Russell-Dyson, Anabel Stevens, Iyla Hitchcock

Latin Award

Eliza Gapper

German Award

Poppie Klein

Music Award

Tobi Wood, Oliver Evemy, Melek Younis, Harry Weeden, Iyla Hitchcock

PE Award

Alex Harris, Ella Rose Cantwell-Wilkinson, Jaydon Magennis, Beatrix Walters, Beatrice Johnson, Emily Aspden

Head Teacher's Award

Ottie Goode, Oliver Evemy, Oliver Aspen, Dylan O'Mahoney, Thomas Ansell-Hawes

News from the Office

Warm school coats are available for £20 each.

Parent evenings take place on February 5th and 6th

It is only permissible to wear school hats – please see website for uniform policy.

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