

Ickford News

Taking part in my own interim appraisal meeting this week reminded me of how important it is to have a mid-period review in order to reset the direction where necessary. Even after many years of being 'appraised', I still find it an uncomfortable experience whether I feel confident in what I have done or at times when I am concerned about the progress I am making. In a week or so, you will have the opportunity to speak to the class teachers at the Parent evenings and I urge everyone to take up this opportunity.

Unfortunately, but unavoidably, the meetings can only be 10 minutes so it is important to make them count. I have often written about the difference parental support and guidance makes to the children and, if that support aligns with the educational view point of the school, I think we can work in a successful partnership. Hopefully, all of the parent meetings will be positive but I have no doubt that some will include recommendations that may not be as welcome as undiluted praise. The advice I give to teachers is always, 'be honest' and I have great faith that parents will value their opinion and understand that it is supported by hard earned, professional qualification.

The school is in a very good position and we are fortunate to be in a situation where parents are still making us their first choice of school. Nevertheless, I am not and never have been complacent and I have no doubt that the undeviating expectation of adherence to our Home School contract and high expectations of behaviour, put some off. This is a good thing as I try and make this explicit before parents apply to join us in order to avoid, as far as possible, disappointment after starting. Unfortunately, this is never guaranteed and only recently, a child has changed schools and although I find it difficult not to see this as a failure on my part, I trust that every member of staff at Ickford, works hard and does their very best and that sometimes this is not enough to keep everyone happy. I have to accept that disgruntled parents will be quite vociferous in their attacks when they leave and all I can do is be grateful that there is, the state system, parental choice and other schools in the local area with space.

One final note on Parent evenings or concerns beyond these, please recognise that I am available for a meeting at any time. I am always more than happy to discuss individual children and to look into progress, attainment, friendships or anything else. I can't promise happiness but I can guarantee effort.

In other news, we have had some success in sport this week with the highlight being an inter-schools Badminton tournament at the Grange Secondary School. An evenly mixed team of boys and girls went undefeated and then finished off by beating the sixth form Sports Leaders from the Grange. It was a disappointment that several Primary Schools withdrew from the competition at the last minute but we can only play those who turn up and to keep winning shows that we are doing something right.

Two Netball league fixtures also took place this week. We played Haydon Abbey on Tuesday and Brill School on Thursday. We had already beaten Brill in a friendly earlier in the year and we knew that they would be stronger for the league game. Unfortunately for Brill, so were we and both schools were beaten comfortably with a combined total of 45 goals for and 1 against. The team superbly led by Faye Kitchen, sit top of the league.

Mr Ronane

Awards this Week

French Award

Orla Kerry

Latin Award

Sam Anzarouth

German Award

Stella Stanfield

Music Award

Ottie Goode, Edie Turner, Annabel Neal, Bryony Ellis, Emily Aspden

PE Award

Alex Nicholls, Lacey McClurg, Jacob Alfrey, Izzy Saunders, Lyla Gill, Melek Younis, Lyla Gill, Harry Weeden, Oliver Jolliffe

Head Teacher's Award

Annabelle Whittall, Sophie Potter, Henry Preston, Zak Flood, James Harris

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.

PGL meeting February 1st 6.00pm

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