

Ickford News

Forced to rise before the sun and tormented by sleepless nights, Charles I was held prisoner on the Isle of Wight...I know how he feels.

Unfortunately for Charles, he lost his head shortly after returning to the main land whereas, at the time of writing at least, I still have mine attached and furthermore, Charles did not have the pleasure of such delightful company during his stay that I enjoyed during mine.

Although a residential is meticulously planned and organised, it is impossible to predict its success and, whilst I wouldn't go as far as to say that I usually have the sense of impending doom that Charles must have felt, there is always a recognition that things may not go to plan and one may have to deal with unforeseen circumstances. Thankfully, nothing untoward occurred and our party of 41 that departed Ickford on the Monday morning, returned safe, well and largely unscathed on Friday evening.

This was a really enjoyable trip and the children who took part were a credit to the school and to their families. In spite of the inclement weather and the glorious mud, every child completed every activity and each one achieved something. It is not until you see the children amongst the company of other schools that you see just how much they stand out. Their behaviour was superb as were their manners and their unwavering support of each other throughout the challenges.

Those of you who are or have been Rugby players will know the unwritten rule, "What goes on tour, stays on tour" so I should probably keep secrets of the 'Disco' to myself except to say that there were some shapes being thrown from unexpected quarters and romance some of us forgot existed!

There were plenty of challenges (Mrs Snell and Mme Basnett for a week anyone?) and the children took part in such things as climbing, abseiling, archery, orienteering to name just a few. As a Headteacher, it was really satisfying to see the children manifesting the school values particularly kindness and determination as well as the encouragement they gave each other when a little fear of heights kicked in was inspiring. I think this is the first time in almost 30 years that I have seen the whole school group take part and succeed in every activity and one of the most enjoyable trips I have been a part of.



Of course, I must thank Miss Hudson, Mrs Snell and Mme Basnett for the genuine love and care they gave throughout the week and their encouragement of the children. I think they will share my sentiments and pride in having seen Ickford School so well represented. Hopefully, we can get some of the pictures and possibly some video footage up on the website very soon.



This week has been fairly hectic but we did manage to have the House Rackets competition in time to present the trophy at the Celebration Assembly. It was a hotly contested affair and we have some very good Badminton players across the houses. After the initial competition on Wednesday, there was no clear winner and two houses were level on 90 points and two level on 60 points. In order to break the tie, an individual boy and girl from each house were selected to play off in finals during Thursday lunchbreak. With a very vocal crowd behind them, the children played some really entertaining individual matches and, when third and fourth could still not be separated, a great doubles match. Eventually after a very close boys final and a tense girl's final, Yellow House were overall winners with Blue 2nd, Red, 3rd and Green 4th. Well done to all of the children who took part and special congratulations to the individuals who contested tie breakers.

We are strong at Badminton but less so at Football and it was with open and cheerful minds that a team of girls went over to St Michaels Secondary School in Aylesbury to contest the 7 a side Area girls football tournament. It is fair to say that the same event last year was pretty much a disaster for us with no goals scored and no matches won but at least this year we could set ourselves a target (score a goal) and treat anything beyond that as a bonus.

Although a year 6 tournament, the squad included the tenacious Elin Roberts from Year 5 and Georgina Preston from Year 4 who, much to the delight of the older girls, scored our first goal enabling a draw in the first match against a strong St Louis Team. We lost a tight game to eventual winners Bedgrove but managed to win our next two matches convincingly with Georgina getting on the score sheet again joined by other team members. The whole squad played really well and they were Captained by Evie Evans who also 'bagged' (note my football lingo) two goals and led from the front. Well done girls, third place overall and only one defeat was certainly progress so who knows what might happen next year?

It was lovely to have been able to hold a French Café this morning and to see so many people at the final Celebration Assembly of the term. It was also a pleasure to see a number of Trustees present who then stayed for the morning, visiting classrooms, meeting with teaching assistants and also the children in Year 6.

To be very honest, when times are tough or particularly energy sapping, the Celebration Assembly is often a personal source of comfort and reassurance and a reminder that the team and I are not doing a bad job and the school is in a good place. We have standards and we have expectations and, as a result we have children who are really well looked after and who thrive in an environment that helps prepare them for life.

Some of you who came to assembly may have noticed the return of Miss Vukomanovic, a legend in these parts, diminutive in stature but gigantic in reputation! She is back in a new role as teacher in Class 2 alongside the equally formidable Miss Allen. Both are fantastic teachers and valued team members so I am delighted to have them working in tandem and back at the coal face so to speak.

If the weather continues to improve and the rain holds off, I am hopeful that we can run the postponed House Cross Country next Wednesday so watch this space. This could be a good preliminary for the County Championships now being held on April 20th and may give us some indication as to our chances in the big event.

One request I need to make is that you check your child's uniform for a name tag please. When we were away in the Isle of Wight and we managed to get the children's, muddy clothing washed and dried, it took ages to return because the great majority did not have a name label in it. This is in spite of us making it clear that this was a prerequisite for the trip. It is the same now at school, lots of children leaving clothing around and no way of identifying whose it is. Please put names in everything.

This year is rapidly getting away from us and next week (a short one) is the last before we break for Easter. It is a really important few days in terms of assessment for progress and consolidating learning. After the holiday, the children's school reports will be sent home with the targets to be addressed in the summer term.

Finally, a big thank you to the staff who held the fort last week and to author Ruth Quayle who came in to inspire the children as story writers. I am indebted to the team whose shared principles ensure the school is always in good hands.

Have a good weekend.

Mr Ronane



News from the Office

Please label every item of your child's clothing.

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

Children who do arrive after registration, must be signed in at the school office.

Please ensure any payments for clubs are up to date.

Awards this Week

French Award

David Lenthall, Freddie Williams, Ronin Reeve, George Jones Orla Kerry, Molly Harding

Latin Award

Sam Anzarouth

German Award

Stanley Johnson, Oliver Jolliffe,

Music Award

George Tinkler, Elsie Thomas, Luna Russell-Dyson, Zak Flood, Beau Marriott

PE Award

Annabelle Whittall, Finlay Bennett, Bruce Dingle, Issy Parsler, Shriya Ramanathan, Thomas Ansell-Hawes

Head Teacher's Award

Edward Evemy, Vika Hardy, Bruce Dingle, Bryony Ellis, Eliza Gapper

Achievement Awards

Alex Nicholls Class 1, Zeynep Konak Class 2, Babs Smith Class 3, Oliver Aspden Class 3, Anabel Stevens Class 4, Faye Kitchen Class 5, Iyla Hitchcock Class 5.

Sports Colours

Elsie Thomas Red, Finlay Bennett Blue, Timothy Issit Yellow, Wilf Evans Yellow, Issy Parsler Green, Zak Flood Green, Jack Turner Yellow, Jacob Dungey Green, Sam Anzarouth Yellow, Faye Kitchen Yellow, Molly Harding Red.

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