

# Ickford News

It was great to welcome the children back for the summer term on Monday morning, the rain lashing down, the wind ripping through me as I fought to keep an umbrella in tact so I could at least keep my hair dry! Although the sun is trying to get its hat on and offer a glimmer of hope for the weekend, it is still cold and we are a long way off of using the school field due to the waterlogged ground.

Some children will have first hand experience of the impact the seemingly constant rain has had when they take part in the County Cross Country Championships tomorrow at Ascott Estate in Wing Buckinghamshire. Long distance running can be a lonely arduous test of endurance but many of our athletes are fleet of foot and will benefit from a slightly firmer ground on the day. Nevertheless, I am confident that if the going is soft, they will all adapt and rise to the challenge of the course. One thing is for certain, they will not be lonely. There are lots of schools taking part and it may be the event that launches a career. It is all rather like horse racing and shall we say, the 'Ickford stable' has some very promising runners and favourable odds. If anyone is looking for a morning/early afternoon out with the family tomorrow, please come and support the team. I believe the house and estate, owned by the National Trust are worth a visit anyway.

I have to make a public thank you to the parents who responded to my 'plea' for help this week for parents to come in and hear children read. We do have some regular volunteers but sadly Dr Boyd (Beatrix Class 3) is unable to continue and she has been a real asset to the team and brilliant with the children. I met with the infant teachers this week and we identified some gaps in learning we would like to fill and it was unanimously concluded that more reading support would help the children. Children love to read with adults. Not only does it provide them with expert guidance, it also gives them the opportunity to show how talented they are and increases self-esteem. I am hopeful that, our new group of parents coming in to school will find the experience really worthwhile and fulfilling in the knowledge that it really helps us.

The annual school report for each child should go home today and, although most of you know, it is worth me informing parents why we send them out now and not at the very end of the year as most schools do. The reports take time to write (forgive my atrocious handwriting please) and, in my opinion, anything that teachers do, should have a positive impact for the children. Therefore, rather than be a historic recount of the year, we summarise the year to date and include targets to be worked on for the final term. In this way, we avoid a situation where a report may not be favourable and parents explain that, had they been informed, they could have done something to address an issue.

The children will have their targets personalised and given to them in the classroom. They will also be explained and discussed personally so that they know what they need to focus on and how they can improve. If parents can also support the children when possible, this has a really significant impact on progress and eventual attainment. It is not about doing loads of extra work but rather about taking some time to reinforce or consolidate things.

Have a good weekend.

Mr Ronane

## Awards this Week

### French Award

Alex Harris, Finlay Bennett, Michaela Mbofana, Zak Flood, Emily Aspden, Aiden Barnes

### Latin Award

Iyla Hitchcock

### German Award

Oliver Jolliffe

### Music Award

James Harris, Finlay Bennett, Phoebe Gapper, Shriya Ramanathan, Oliver Jolliffe

### PE Award

Freya Jones, Jacob Issitt, Alistair Robinson, Zak Flood, Eliza Gapper

### Head Teacher's Award

David Lenthall, Milly Snelling, Edward Nicolls, Harry Weeden, Stella Stanfield

## Sponsors



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## Summer Music Concert for Key Stage 2

We are still hoping to find a sponsor for this event, either an individual or a company. A donation towards costs is considered sponsorship.

We spend approximately £600 on the lighting and additional staging.

The PTA provides drinks and canapes at an approximate cost of £300.



The four dancing Penguins who turned up at the disco in the Isle of Wight!