

Ickford News

Last weekend's cross country was, at times, reminiscent of the Grand National and had they been horse races, we would certainly have had steward's enquiries and, one would imagine, animal rights campaigners protesting about the number of fallers before the first bend!

Fortunately, the weather was perfect for running and the sun lit up the beautiful Ascott Estate. The four races were, as predicted, heavily contested with participant numbers between 70 and 100 in each ensuring that starts were chaotic and a test of survival rather than tactical nous. The course was undulating and at times very tight but the real test came towards the end with a steep incline just before the finish that really was a test of stamina and determination.

It was all very exciting and every runner in the Ickford team, ran as well as they could whilst Mrs O'Mahoney and Mrs Kitchen (herself a former participant) kept track of the placings. When the racing was finished a large crowd gathered around the cricket pavilion for the awards ceremony with trophies given to the first three home in each race, medals to the first ten and points awarded to every runner according to how they finished. Some schools had some very good individual runners and St Michael's School took first place in both a girl's and boy's race and Brill managing a second place in the 5/6 boys and there were a large number of schools with individual top ten places. However, I knew from experience (we last competed and won in 2018) that the Championship Trophy for the winning school, would be decided by who had the most successful team overall and, in short, the fittest and most consistent group of runners across every race.

I won't lie, I was not sure where we would come but, as they read out the list of top ten schools in reverse order, I knew that we were in with a chance. I think that the absence of the



name 'Ickford' from the top three trophy awards may have given the other schools hope and, from a discreet position at the back of the crowd, I could see the incredulity and mounting disappointment on the faces of the opposition as we were named overall Champions. The children were delighted and deserved the applause of their parents and the non-partisan members of the crowd. The rather large silver cup

will sit on the trophy shelf until next year when I hope we will be able to mount a successful defence of the title.

The term is going to be very busy and I know that Jackie Thomas has sent out a ParentMail requesting support for the PTA this term. I cannot over emphasise the importance of any funds raised by the PTA and I really have to thank Mrs Evemy, who I believe is behind the Café in the Park, which seems to be a great success.

Gone are the days when we could rely on a Michelin starred chef to throw in a fund-raising dinner so, even more, we are really reliant on events such as the Summer Fayre. A strong and committed team is needed to plan and prepare for this and I am also happy to be involved if required.

Though not a fund raiser, our KS2 Summer Concert is a significant event in our calendar and I am really please to be able to announce that we have sponsors to cover costs and to provide refreshments. I will not reveal these yet but I am hopeful that they will not be insistent on anonymity and will permit me to include their names on publicity and the website. I am incredibly grateful and as I cannot offer much more than thanks, it should at least, be made public.



This picture shows lunch being delivered to school during the week, all part of an attempt to be eco-friendly and save on packaging.

No! It doesn't and I can assure you that no children or animals were harmed in the production of this photograph. We were just fortunate to have a visit from the lamb who is currently one of the bottle-fed lambs at the Boyles farm in Worminghall.

Have a good weekend,

Mr Ronane

Awards this Week

French Award

Boden Crispin, Riona Harrell, Edie Turner, Jacob Shannon, Oisin Harrell, Pippa Hunting, Molly Harding

Latin Award

Emily-Jay Friday

German Award

James Harris

Music Award

Arthur Saunders, William Jones, Edward Nicholls, Anabel Stevens, Orla Kerry

PE Award

William Jones, Amelia Vorotyntsova, Barnaby Potter, Issy Parlser, Sam Anzarouth

Head Teacher's Award

Sebastian Herring, George Middleton, Izzy Saunders, Beatrice Beckett, Jacob Dungey

News from the Office

Important Dates

Secondary Transfer Meeting	Tuesday April 30 th
Sports Day	Thursday July 18 th
Netball County Finals	Monday May 20 th
KS2 Summer Concert	Friday June 21 st

Check out the school website for the Isle of Wight Gallery

Sponsors

