

# Ickford News

This whole week has been Mental Health Awareness week and yesterday, Thursday May 16<sup>th</sup>, was the day on which supporters were asked to wear green. Fortunately, our school uniform lent itself to the cause.

During my time as a teacher and then leader, the discourse around mental well-being in schools has changed significantly and, thankfully, we are in a much better place now than we were. Nevertheless, the often 'invisible' manifestations and the broad range of ages in a school, make it a very complex area to manage.

As written about in these pages before, I have the wonderful Mrs Ellis leading pastoral support and Mrs Cashmore has also taken child counselling training. In addition, we have a Trustee with responsibility for staff mental well-being, a role that has proved invaluable since its inception. The environment is also incredibly important and, the fact that every child and adult recognise that they come to a safe place each day with open lines of communication, makes a real difference to all of us, including me. So, not just this week but forever, it's OK not to be OK.

I know that one member of our school community made the journey to York this week for a little indulgence in the 'sport of kings' but (unless he had a flutter and won) he may have got more enjoyment and better racing on the Ickford recreation ground where the children in the Early Years and infant classes competed for the House multi-skills Trophy. Throwing, jumping, running and team work were the component parts of the event all glued together with a great deal of cheering and encouragement for each other.

Now, I don't doubt that, the York race meeting may have run as smoothly but we had our own 'steward's enquiry' when Madame Basnett, the most fiercely competitive patron of Yellow House, barged into my office to demand a recount! Placated (eventually) she then tried to claim that Green House (Miss Vukomanovic) the winners had a disproportionate number of superior athletes but, by this time, I wasn't listening anymore and the final order stood! Yellow House have triumphed 3 times this year and only Blue House are yet to win an event but the moment belongs to Green House and that overall House point score is getting very close indeed. With Football, Tug of War and Leadership, still to come it will be an exciting end to the year.



Though Madame may be out of her depth when it comes to complaining about sporting contests, she is certainly 'inspirational' in the classroom and our Year 6 children approached their SATs this week with the attitude of 'opportunity' rather than 'anxiety'. It is not the first time I have felt this and I hope it will not be the last.

Madame teaches every child from their individual starting point academically but, such is her passion for the advancement of the children as a whole, they bond as a collegial entity, completely supportive of each other and motivated to achieve to the best of their ability. I have no idea what the results will be but, I think I would rather put my money on Madame than a horse running at York! (Although 'Devoted Queen' in the 3.15pm looks like an apt choice).

Finally, and I know I risk plenty of yawns, the Year 6 Netball Team are competing in the Premier League Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes County Final on Monday and I want to wish them all luck. Only 7 are taking part but it has been a real squad effort to get to the finals this year and 11 players have taken part in league matches. I am incredibly proud of the whole squad and, regardless of how they get on next week, I shall always remember this year as one of the most enjoyable. The support that they give each other is wonderful to witness and I hope that those chosen can bring it home for everyone.

Have a good weekend,

Mr Ronane

(Devoted Queen won!)

## **Awards this Week**

### **French Award**

Rogan Reeve, Freya Weeden, Bruce Dingle, Lucy Hird

### **Latin Award**

### **German Award**

Molly Harding, Poppie Klein

### **Music Award**

Harry Jolliffe, Edie Turner, Stella Anzarouth, Edward Pentecost, Pippa Hunting

### **PE Award**

Arthur Saunders, Annabelle Whittall, Rogan Reeve, Alex Harris, Milly Snelling, Benjamin Herratt, Sienna Jones, Lacey McClurg, Jack Turner, Zak Flood, Iyla Hitchcock

### **Head Teacher's Award**

James Harris, Fred Ellis, Luna Russell-Dyson, Dylan O'Mahoney, Beau Marriott

Key Stage 1 Recorder Assembly July 16<sup>th</sup>

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