

# Ickford News

Exactly one month after I was born, they broadcast a television programme called, "That Was The Week That Was". It only lasted for two series so I never actually got to see it and, trust me, even if I had been old enough to watch it, by the time the television warmed up in those days, you had to switch it on a month in advance to see anything! How I know the title, I am not sure but, it has come to my mind on this Friday evening following a somewhat convoluted 5 days of at the helm of HMS Ickford.

Experience they say, is a hard teacher. She gives you the test first and the lesson afterwards and our Netball players were certainly tested on Monday when they competed in the County Finals. I know that the whole squad, especially those who played on the day, were very disappointed not to be able to win the competition. Having been undefeated in the league and convincing winners of every match played, they certainly went in to the finals confident in their ability and as a 'team to beat' amongst the other competing schools.

Ten matches in one event is a tall order even if the matches are only 12 minutes in length and, rather than the number of matches, it is their brevity that causes the problems. Any team that gets even a 2-goal lead, knows that they have a strong chance of winning. Sadly, in the second match we lost by one goal to the eventual winners. They also suffered one defeat later on but unfortunately, a draw in our 8<sup>th</sup> match cost us any chance of taking the title and goal difference put us in third place and meant bronze medals rather than gold this year.

I think the team learned from the experience even if it was only, how much defeat can hurt but I also believe that they will be stronger players in the future because of it. A narrow defeat does not make them a poor team and, on any other day, I have no doubt that they could beat any of the schools in the County. It was just not to be on the day, we made some errors that we probably won't make again and lacked some of urgency needed when going behind for the first time. The team may not have made, 'the wall' this year but they can be assured I am very proud of all of them.

Netball gave way to TAG Rugby on Wednesday and sunshine gave way to torrential rain that persisted all day and made most of the teams entered for the tournament at Aylesbury Rugby Club, pull out. Ickford children, as you know, are made of strong stuff and there was never any question that we would not go. On arrival, we were informed that any competitive element was being removed which certainly disappointed the Year 5/6 children who had been promised a competition. I just wish that they had forewarned us that any semblance of TAG rugby was also being removed, our children may be made of strong stuff but that does not mean I am going to risk them getting hurt. I have a feeling this story may be continued.

Thursday was a return to home for me when we took the train to London with classes 3 and 5 and went to see, 'Legion' the new exhibition about the Roman Army at the British Museum. I am not sure the children (or staff) realised (or appreciated) my cunning plan to make this a fully immersive trip by marching in formation and in 'double time' from Marylebone to the British Museum. The moans and groans were palpable but with the Fin and Ella for company at the head of the head of the line and a very informative discussion about sharks, I was impervious to the disgruntled rumblings from the ranks!

On arrival at the Museum, Mr Calcutt our expert on all things Latin and Roman seemed somewhat 'flushed' but kept quiet and we were soon fully ensconced amongst the relics of Roman Britain and skeletons of the past, literally.

As we were less restricted by deadlines, the return journey was more leisurely so a stop off in Regents Park enabled a little down time and a chance for the children to play before the journey home. I can only apologise to any commuters on the 2.36 p.m. Chiltern Line service to Haddenham Thame Parkway who found the first carriage filled with children but I am sure that, like me, they could not fault the behaviour and manners of our happy band. In fact, several members of the public took the trouble to speak to our members of staff and to comment very favourably about the children. Venimus Vidimus, Vicimus indeed!



# Awards this Week

## French Award

Sebastian Herring, Benjamin Herratt, Isabella Hawkins, Harry Weeden, Stella Stanfield,

## Music Award

Sebastian Herring, Jacob Alfrey, Oliver Aspden, Matilda Ousley, Iyla Hitchcock

## PE Award

Jacob Brookfield, Jacob Alfrey, Melek Younis, Anabel Stevens, Emily Aspden, Pippa Hunting

## Head Teacher's Award

Maya Warren, Edie Turner, Shaawn Ramanathan, Shriya Ramanathan, Pippa Hunting

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