

Ickford News

Yesterday, I listened to Iwan Thomas, the former Olympian 400m runner, being interviewed on Radio 4's Loose Ends (sign of getting old) and talking about the Paris Olympics at which he will be part of a television commentary team. He explained how he wished he was many years younger and still an athlete but would nevertheless enjoy being there and watching the athletes, "go to battle". A powerful metaphor and, perhaps to those who have never competed in sport, possibly a little over zealous but I admired Iwan's passion and gratitude for the opportunities sport had afforded him.

It was telling that, on the same day, I received an e-mail from the School Sports Partnership with an attached flier advertising what we can get for our £2000 membership fee in the next academic year. I was dismayed, but unsurprised, to read the whole 2-page document highlighting for example a, "wide variety of sports and physical activity events" and not see the word 'competition' appear once. Sadly, I think that competitive sports for state Primary Schools may soon be consigned to the annals of history.

To be at Stoke Mandeville Stadium last Monday evening and watch so many children taking part in healthy competition was a real pleasure. I hope that the undoubtedly proud parents who came to watch also enjoyed the event. It was exciting, nail bitingly tense and, in the end, very close but for the 4th year in a row, the Ickford athletes were victorious and brought the cup home. No bank holidays to be offered I'm afraid but the team photograph (thanks to Miriam Smith) is already on the 'wall of champions' and they should all be proud of the collective effort they put in to win this event.



Although I would like to think that natural ability and our training was the key to the success, there may have been a calming influence on our Year 6 athletes due to the visit during the day time of the Oxfordshire Bee Keepers Association. Both Madame and I were keen to get some bees into school to support the studies about nature that have been going on in the classroom and the workshop proved to be really informative and enjoyed by all. Unfortunately, nobody informed the hive of bees that the ladies brought along with them that they had to behave at Ickford and some decided to 'go rogue' and plotted an escape during the journey to the school. I have to admit it was quite comical to see a car pull up in the car park with a number of bees flying around inside and a woman emerge quite unperturbed at their behaviour. Apparently, the bees usually stay in the hive, probably because, it swarm! (poor attempt at joke)

There has been a big football competition this week and also the European Championships. England may be successful in the Euros final (sorry school starts at same time Monday) on Sunday but it was Green House who were the winners of the KS2 House Football this week. We had fun and, although there are undoubtedly some talented football players in the school, it was lovely to see all of the children playing together without some of the dramatics of the professional game and without surrounding the referee! I shall watch on Sunday but I shall also be catching the All Blacks against England in the Rugby on Saturday.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the children in Year 6 on the National test results which were published this week.

Key Stage 2 SATs Results 2024

Ickford School Data

	EXPECTED STANDARD	GREATER DEPTH STANDARD
SPAG	100%	40%
Reading	100%	60%
Maths	100%	55%
Writing	100%	30%
Combined	100%	

Compared to National Data

	EXPECTED STANDARD	GREATER DEPTH STANDARD
SPAG	72%	31% (Ickford + 9%)
Reading	74%	29% (Ickford +31%)
Maths	73%	24% (Ickford +31%)
Writing	72%	13% (Ickford + 17%)
Combined	61%	No National Data

This is another outstanding achievement and testament to the superb teaching the children have had at Ickford and especially this year with Madame Basnett. The Queen of Ickford rocks!

Have a good weekend.
Mr Ronane

Awards this Week

French Award

Jack Beckett, Zeynep Konak, Xavier Flood, Harry Middleton, Thomas Ansell-Hawes, Emily-Jay Friday

Latin Award

Molly Harding

German Award

Music Award

Gracie Gill, Harrison O'Mahoney, Finn Rouse, Frank Wilkinson, Emily-Jay Friday

PE Award

Jesse Jones, Oliver Evemy, Phoebe Gapper, William Barber, Isla Thomas, Elin Roberts, Harry Middleton. Poppie Klein

Head Teacher's Award

Boden Crispin, Jacob Issitt, Stella Anzarouth. Edward Pentecost, James Harris

Key Dates

Tuesday 16 th July	KS1 Recorder Assembly
Thursday 18 th July	Sports Day
Friday 19 th July	Final Celebration Assembly
Monday 22 nd July	Afternoon Class 4/5 play (2pm)
Monday 22 nd July	Evening Class 4/5 play (7pm)
Tuesday 23 rd July	Leavers Assembly (11am)
Tuesday 23 rd July	Last Day of Term

Sponsors

