

# Ickford News

Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more and thankfully, all present and correct as we begin a new academic year. Although, there were days when Margot and I stood in an empty school rather like Wallace and Gromit wishing for a bit of company, the holiday seems to have gone very quickly so I hope you have all had enough time to enjoy family and possibly a holiday.

From a leadership point of view, there is probably more uncertainty around the start of this year than there has been for many because of the recent change in Government and the speed with which they have already fired some shots across our bows. We already know that the OFSTED inspection regime is changing with immediate affect and that the Government has started a review of the National Curriculum. I welcome both initiatives in spite of the fact that the team here have been working really hard on developing the curriculum mapping and now look to be faced with the imposition of significant change. I suppose that I just have to keep my fingers crossed that, those newly appointed to administer our education system, know what they are doing. Since I began teaching, there have been 19 Secretaries of State for Education so, I am used to adapting to change, well thought out or otherwise.

It has been great to see the classrooms filled with children again and to welcome this year's Reception cohort. It will take me a while to remember the names but I have already had the chance to meet most of them and watch them in action. I was stopped in my tracks on Thursday when walking across the playground and a very small person shouted, "Oi, Mr Ronane (well a similar sound) we are making a challenge!" Now that is the language I like to hear and having the confidence to accost me so early on bodes well for the young lady's future. Having had a very successful Early Years last year, I have asked the infant teachers and support staff about the new intake and I am really pleased to have received some very positive feedback. It is early days and no doubt there may be some tears next week when they realise they have to keep coming back but a good start is always important and the future looks bright.

Next Wednesday evening, starting at 6.00pm, we have our usual 'meet the teacher' sessions taking place and it would be great to see lots of parents attend. They do not take very long but some important information pertaining to the year is given and I think it is always good to have clarity from the start. We shall be arranging a 'phonics and reading session' in the near future and when possible a session on how maths is taught if there is a demand for it. I know that Jackie and the PTA committee will be canvassing for volunteers soon and you should see a flyer attached to the same ParentMail as the newsletter inviting you to engage in a fundraising scheme with Asda.

We are fortunate to enjoy great support from our parent community but each year I can't but wonder what new parents will bring to the table. Hopefully, it's a continuation of the great partnership we have forged so that Ickford remains at the pinnacle of education in the county.

Have a good weekend, Mr Ronane.

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