

Ickford News

A shortened school week for children but a long week for many of us who have been affected by the deluge of rain, burst banks and overwhelmed drains. The Land Rover has earned its keep this week and I have literally managed to 'ferry' a few people around who may otherwise have been stuck. Every time I even consider a more comfortable, economical and 'teacher like' car, the weather Gods seem to intervene and bring me back to my senses! Having to close the school is a complete anathema to me and, the long-term parents amongst you will know that, even in the worst of snow, Ickford has remained open when every other school has folded quicker than a deck chair in a hurricane. Nevertheless, I am confident that the correct decision was taken this week and now hoping that we will not need to take such action again this year.

Hopefully, next week we can be fully operational. Unfortunately, unforeseen closures highlight the importance of normal attendance as it does not take long for a child to accumulate a lot of lost learning if they miss school for any reason. To make things easier for you we have now published the term dates for 2025 – 2026 on the school website so that you can plan holidays and avoid unauthorised absence.

I note that Class 4 are going out to the Ashmolean next week which, with the indomitable Mrs Honey at the helm, will be a great trip. The objective, *"To enhance the opportunities for academic enrichment both on and off site"* is entrenched in our School Development Plan and I know that I can always rely on Mrs Honey to take on the mantle of 'leader' when it comes to challenge. Hopefully, others will follow and we will see an abundance of opportunities for the children to enjoy venues beyond the school site this year.

I am a huge advocate for school outings and once, early in my teaching career took my then Year 3 class to Rome for 4 days even managing to get an audience with the Pope! The thing I miss most about teaching in central London has to be the access to some great places to visit and many of them within walking distance. Unfortunately, here in Ickford we are at the mercy of the rising cost of coach transport which, combined with high entry prices, can make teachers reluctant to propose trips. I try to find extra money where I can but it is not always easy and we rely quite heavily on the PTA (You) which is excellent at subsidising some of the trips and making sure that no child misses out. Please support the committee's efforts wherever you can because children rarely sit down in later years and reminisce about a test they took or a homework they had but, they do remember the enrichment activities and memorable experiences.

One man who appeared to enjoy the rain recently is our very own Mr Woodley and he has requested that I include his thanks to everyone who sponsored his London to Brighton, Off Road, Mountain Bike ride recently. Hampered by terrible conditions and some, 'not so able' participants (His judgement not mine) he completed the course in 8 hrs and 20 minutes having been forced to make frequent stops to unclog his derailleurs (I have no idea sorry).

Have a good weekend.

Mr Ronane

Important Dates

Wednesday 2 nd October	Phonics and Reading Workshop 19:00 – 20:00
Thursday 3 rd October	Class 4 Trip to The Ashmolean
Monday 21 st October	Parents Evening 16:00 – 19:00
Wednesday 23 rd October	Parents Evening 16:00 – 19:00
Tuesday 5 th November	Year 5&6 Swimming Starts (6 sessions
Thursday 21 st November	Flu Vaccinations
Monday 2 nd December	Class 5 Trip to Bletchley Park
Monday 9 th December	Afternoon Showing Nativity 14:00
Wednesday 11 th December	Evening Showing Nativity 18:00
Monday 16 th December	KS2 Carol Concert
Wednesday 18 th December	Whole School Trip to Pantomime
Wednesday 18 th December	Last Day of Term



Mr Woodley rides again!

Sponsors



Telephone:07590206869/07787568297

