

# Ickford News

I find it difficult to believe that the school day has already ended let alone that it is now half-term already such is rate at which time is passing with so much still to do.

I can tell things are returning to normal because serial absentees have taken extra time off which I find sad and frustrating, particularly in a year when children have missed so much school. As if often the case, children who miss school often require support as part of their normal routine and it was during a meeting with Mrs Honey this morning that I was reminded of the enormous amount we do for children who, for whatever reason, find elements of the curriculum difficult.

I remember when I first began teaching and how it was made very clear to me that the children who struggled in my class, would spend several hours per week working with another teacher outside of the classroom. I was rather affronted by this as, having spent 5 years studying and qualifying to teach, I believed that I should be working with those most in need of my expertise. I became even more dismayed by the fact that throughout the school, every teacher gave up a group of their children deemed to be below expectations, to this other "specialist" teacher for support work. Furthermore, every child in the school had the opinion that some children went out every day and did 'easier' work and when they were in the classroom they did more, 'easier' work with the help of the teaching assistant who often just did it for them.

It took me some time to be in a position where I could change this system of withdrawing children from classroom-based lessons with their peers to one in which they were included in differentiated lessons where I could take full responsibility for their

learning including convincing several teaching assistants that I was more than happy to teach every child and to adapt my lessons accordingly.

I do not mean to disparage teaching assistants and I have worked with many good ones (some who were not so good) and currently employ several excellent ones. Nonetheless, I have been committed at Ickford to ensuring that children who, for any reason, find some parts of learning difficult, are taught within classrooms with their peers and friends and under the supervision and guidance of a fully qualified teacher. This is inclusion and this is why our teachers at Ickford have to work particularly hard. They cannot absolve themselves of responsibility by abandoning the children who struggle to segregation and low-level tasks.

Mrs Honey co-ordinates our Learning Support provision and she knows only too well my views on this but she reminds me just how much the teachers put into supporting children in the classroom and she expects me to challenge when parents are unsupportive. The interventions that we do use in school are ones that we know have a proven, positive impact and they take place over and above the normal teaching time, discretely and in addition rather than obviously and instead of.

I am not an idealist with romantic notions of all children being equal but I am a pragmatic optimist and I have great trust in the professional integrity and dedication of our staff. Supporting learning in the way in which we do at Ickford is difficult and at times expensive both in terms of time and money but I am proud of our track record. Every child takes part in Music, PE, Art and French lessons. Those which many schools would consider 'expendable' if a child is not making adequate progress in Literacy and Numeracy. I am adamant that every child has these subjects in their normal timetable and this

will continue to be our philosophy and our ethos.

Mrs Honey is right, we do our best for all of the children and it is a significant amount but we can't do it in isolation. The children who struggle need more than anything, the support of their family working with the school.

Their years at Primary School pass quickly and in spite of what we may read elsewhere, they are incredibly important especially at Ickford where expectations are standards are high. Trust me, other schools are not the same and Secondary School is going to be a shock for some parents who are used to the communication and the clarity. Half term is a chance to recharge the batteries but I did not welcome it this time as I know the pressure the teachers are under making up lost ground and supporting those who need it. Please support them.

Have a good break.

Mr Ronane

## **Ickford NEWS** from the office

### **Dates for your diary...**

31 <sup>st</sup> May - 4 <sup>th</sup> June	May Half Term
8 <sup>th</sup> June – all day	Cricket Festival Years 5 & 6
10 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 Vision Screening
28 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Longridge Trip
29 <sup>th</sup> June	Parents Evening
1 <sup>st</sup> July	Parents Evening
6 <sup>th</sup> July – 9am	KS1 Recorder Assembly
7 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day

9 <sup>th</sup> July – 2.30pm	Year 6 Music Recital
12 <sup>th</sup> July - afternoon	Class 4 & 5 Play
13 <sup>th</sup> July - evening	Class 4 & 5 Play
14 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Games
14 <sup>th</sup> July - overnight	Year 6 Camping
16 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day of Term



### **This Week's Celebration Assembly**

#### **Hall of Fame:**

#### **Music Award:**

Xavier Flood  
Harry Weedon  
Molly Harding  
Benjamin Readman  
Gethin Walters

#### **PE Award:**

Bruce Dingle  
Henry Preston  
Elizabeth Smith  
Sienna Jones  
Dylan O'Mahoney  
Isla Thomas  
Jack Turner  
Frank Wilkinson  
Emily Aspden

Henry Johnston  
Gwilym Walters  
Pippa Harding  
Alfie North  
Alexander Snell  
Zach Stanfield

**French Award:**

Teddy Merritt  
William Barber  
George Jones  
Zach Stanfield

**Deutsch Award:**

Alfie North

**Latin Award:**

Zach Stanfield

**Headteachers Award:**

Ella Aben  
Jack Turner  
Faye Kitchen  
Isabella Cooke  
Eleanor Hagues  
Alexander Snell

**KS1 Football Player of  
the Tournament:**

Anabel Stevens  
Harry Middleton

**KS2 Football Player of  
the Tournament:**

Zara Luckhurst  
Gethin Walters

**House Football**

The overall competition was won by Yellow House and the running points total can be found on the home page of the school website. Blue House are currently leading the way towards the House Cup with only half a term to go.

I was really impressed by all of the children in the football competition and picked out some star performances for PE awards. I also chose four children who were outstanding on the day to give Player of the Tournament awards to.

**School Lottery**

**A winner within school every week!**

If you would like the chance to win, and support the school, please click on the link below and get signed up!

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/ickford-school>



**Breakfast Club**

Please remember to book your child's place for breakfast club with the school office by Friday at midday for the following week. Entry to breakfast club will be via Gate A by the Recreation Ground.

## Sponsors



On behalf of all the children and teachers I would like to give sincere thanks to SAS Wireless for their incredibly generous sponsorship of Ickford Sports. Look out for their Logo in the future.



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