

## Ickford News

Yesterday, I was asked by Melek one of the children in Year 1, "Why do we say fast asleep?" I was really impressed by this question because it showed how intently she was paying attention to the language of the story and also an early fascination about words and their meaning.

Fortunately, though challenged, I was quick to delve into my own language understanding and, though I have never considered the question before, I linked the words, 'steadfast', 'fasten' and the phrase 'hold fast' in an instant and explained that it meant to be fixed in such a deep state of sleep that one could not be moved from it without difficulty. Now, having subsequently checked to ensure I had not inadvertently misguided her, I am relieved to discover I was correct and that it originates from the old German word, 'fest' meaning stuck firmly.

Google is amazing as a tool for accessing quick answers and it might be argued, do we really need teachers now that we have Google? I would have to argue yes, we do because, whilst it may be a font of knowledge, it can't replace the human interaction that Melek and I enjoyed and I don't think it would inspire an interest in language that an engaging teacher can. Furthermore, I need to champion employment for myself and the other staff which brings me neatly on to the subject of the on-line Parent survey!

I have been asked to confirm that it is anonymous (although I have already explained this) so yes, it is and I hope that it gives a voice to those who feel 'voiceless'. The submitted forms are collected on the website visible to the administrator but the sender remains anonymous unless they have chosen to include their name. I hope to collate the responses and to respond to comments in due course. (The teachers have requested an anonymous survey of parents in return joking!)

I wrote last week of the anxious wait for the Government announcement and, as you all now know, crossed fingers simply do not work. It looks as though any hope of parents attending the Celebration Assemblies this year have been extinguished and we are now having to rethink everything we had planned for the end of term.

I am determined to hold Sports Day however, it is not just Covid regulations that threaten to scupper things but also the condition of the Recreation Ground. It is covered in bumps, potholes, ruts and molehills and, if I am honest, I am not sure it is fit for purpose. I have been considering hiring Horspath Athletics track for the day but shall need to know what the general feeling would be about this. The facility would not only provide a perfect surface and plenty of space, it would also enable us to have parents present (grandstand seating) whilst maintaining proper social distancing. I am going to see what the children think because after a year of cancellations and false hope, our own Olympic Games on a real track (the site of many a past Ickford inter-schools victory) may provide some necessary excitement before we break up.

I am able to confirm that the outing to Wendover Woods will be going ahead on Wednesday and so will the Rugby tournament at Buckingham School. Let's hope that the weather brightens up again and we can all enjoy a day in the sun but be prepared to pack waterproof coats as well as the packed lunch and sun cream.

I have had an enquiry about lunches this week and would just like to confirm that every child is given at least 30 minutes to eat their lunch if necessary. Please remember this as if they are not eating their lunch and use lack of time as an excuse, it is not accurate and there may be another reason why the lunch remains in the box. The children sit together from 12.15 and eat in their classrooms but they are

allowed to go out to the field or playground at 12.30. Those that need more time to eat go to another room so that they can be supervised and then take as long as they need. Most children are finished by 12.45 and even then, any that have not, are able to continue eating. These procedures are outlined using slides in assembly to ensure that all staff and all children understand the routines so please remember this before challenging us about children eating.

I want to finish by congratulating our Year 6 children and their teacher Mme Basnett. Despite the cancellation of national exams at the end of Key Stage 2 this year due to Covid, Mme has put every child through the test papers under exam conditions and as we would normally carry out the tests. In a year of such disruption and when so many schools have complained of being unable to close the gap, 100% of our Year 6 reached the expected standard in Maths with 60% achieving greater depth. The picture is almost the same in Reading and Writing with 95% reaching expected standards. This is a phenomenal achievement for all concerned and testament not only to the skilfulness of Madame as a teacher but also the provision during lockdown and the hard work put in by all of the teachers throughout these children's journey here at the school. With end of Key Stage 2 results being used carefully to help predict future success at GCSE and A level, I am sure the information we can provide secondary schools this year will be invaluable. I know that Pride is one of the seven deadly sins but I shall plead guilty and accept my fate, I am full of it.

Have a good weekend.

Mr Ronane

## **Ickford NEWS** from the office

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

#### **Hall of Fame**

##### **Music Award:**

Melek Younis  
Timothy Issitt  
Eliza Gapper  
Gwilym Walters  
Finlay Addis

##### **PE Award:**

Isabella Hawkins  
Bryony Ellis  
Florence Arnold  
Harry Weeden  
Samuel Anzarouth  
Eliza Gapper  
Orla Kerry  
Harvey Chapman  
Harry Johnston  
Isla Turrell  
Jake Fletton  
Noah Samuel

##### **French Award:**

Jacob Shannon  
Georgina Preston  
Edward Pentecost  
Orla Kerry  
Samuel Anzarouth  
Brayden O'Malley  
Chloe Makris  
Daisy Coke

##### **Gethin Walters**

##### **Deutsch Award:**

Harriet Palmer

##### **Latin Award:**

Roxanne Wakelin

##### **Headteachers Award:**

Annabel Neal  
Florence Arnold  
Emily Aspden  
Daisy Coke  
Georgina Palmer

## Dates for your diary...

21st June	Class Photos
23rd June	Wendover Woods Trip
23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Year 5/6 Tag Rugby Festival
28 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Longridge Trip
29 <sup>th</sup> June	Parents Evening
1 <sup>st</sup> July	Cricket Final
1 <sup>st</sup> July	Parents Evening
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	Cricket Engagement Day
13 <sup>th</sup> July - evening	Class 4 & 5 Play
14 <sup>th</sup> July - overnight	Year 6 Camping
16 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day of Term

## 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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