

Ickford News

The pleasure gained from listening to a child read in the understanding that you have, in some small way, been a part of their journey, is immeasurable. It remains, the greatest gift and, having been able to hear some children read in the past two days, I have been amazed by progress and invigorated in my purpose. Our library and our dedication to teaching children to read is one of our strengths and I sincerely hope that parents feel the same way. Mrs Honey and I attended the PTA meeting held last night in the Pavilion and one of the 'wishes' I shared was that we could dedicate some funds to replenishing our stock of books so that we can continue to provide all children with the opportunity to read a variety of genres for pleasure. I am incredibly grateful that the PTA already pays the annual subscription for our on-line library platform as this makes such a difference to the children's school experience as well as making life much easier for the wonderful Mrs Winfield our 'in house' librarian.

I left last night's meeting filled with optimism and buoyed by the impressive turnout. It was fantastic to see so many parents willing to be involved and I'd like to thank and congratulate those who stood for election to the committee. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Chairperson Ben Sayer who, in the past 5 years, has been at the forefront of some significant fundraising ventures and Mr and Mrs Jones who organised the meeting and provided copious bottles of wine!

You are, by default, all members of the PTA and your support for the committee this year will be invaluable. They are already planning events the aim of which is not only to raise funds for the school, but also to ensure we promote and nurture our community spirit. I am sure the committee members will be made known to everyone very soon via the

PTA website but I can tell you in advance, the words, 'party' and 'animals' sprung straight into my mind!

Animals of a different kind have featured prominently this week and I learned a great deal about Tortoises when I visited Class 1. Who knew they don't have teeth or that a group of tortoises is called a 'creep'? Sir David Attenborough possibly but he is being given a run for his money by the children in Reception!

Hundreds of strange creatures inhabited the school field yesterday but each one was safely accommodated in a suitable habitat expertly design and created by the children in their house groups. The outdoor learning projects led by Mrs Honey each week have been a real success and I was overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of every child for the tasks. To see the co-operation between the children and the support they give to each other was genuinely heart-warming and I hope to discuss some ideas with the PTA that may help to ensure we capture the enthusiasm for making better use of our outdoor space.

For a long time now, because of the pandemic, we have, been forced to keep parents 'outdoors' but I would like to begin changing this whilst keeping an eye on Covid and making sure we remain safe and secure. From Monday October 18th, parents will be permitted on to the playground when dropping children off in the morning. Please note that this does not mean permitted in to the school and the children must still come straight in to their classrooms. You do not have to come in and I am quite happy for the children to be sent through the gates on their own but, to 'soften' the lines as it were, some parents may want to take those few more steps with their children. The class teachers will be at classroom entrances and either myself or Mme Basnett will be on the playground.

This change will also allow you to speak to a class teacher if you need to but, please remember that they will not have a great deal of time and if you want to talk about something in depth, you must still make an appointment for a proper meeting via the school office.

The procedure for collection children at the end of the day will remain the same apart for the parents of any children in Class 1. In order to make things safer (I hope) we would like parents with children in Class 1 to come through the gate and to collect their children from the entrance to the outdoor learning area. Miss Vukomanovic or Miss Southgate will let the children go when you have made yourself known to them. Older siblings of these children will line up by the side of the outdoor play area and can be collected from there at the same time. Please be aware that Miss Vukomanovic will not be able to speak to parents at this point other than to hand over children and it is important that we keep the exit clear.

I am hopeful that these small changes will work and make life easier for everyone. However, should they simply cause difficulties, I shall have to revert back to the current arrangements.

Most of you should know that we have a Celebration Assembly every Friday during which awards are presented and the Golden Book shared. Up until the pandemic, we had always invited parents to join us in celebrating success and I am keen to see parents back with us. Whilst we must be careful, I am happy move towards full attendance by inviting Key Stage 1 parents to join us for the Celebration Assembly next Friday October 22nd. If you have a child in Class 1 or Class 2 you can come into the school hall when you drop your children in the morning ready for the assembly that will start at approximately 9.05am For those who

have never attended before please remember that the Assembly is also part of our statutory daily act of worship and a formal occasion for the children. I would be grateful if you could respect the need for silence during the school prayer and a request to switch off mobile phones.

Before I sneak in to the Sports hall to join the Key Stage 2 Movie Night (memories of sneaking in to Saturday morning pictures as a kid), I just want to sign off by repeating my thanks for the tremendous support and all of the messages received in the last couple of days. I have been very touched and it has meant a great deal not just to me but to Mme Basnett and all of the staff here as well. Ickford is a wonderful school and will continue to be such. The team, dare I say, 'my team' are brilliant and I am blessed to lead them.

Have a good weekend.
Mr Ronane



Ickford News from the office

Dates for your diary...

22 nd October	KS1 Celebration Assembly
22 nd October	Last Day of Term

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.



This Week's Celebration Assembly

Hall of Fame

Music Award:

Zeynep Konak
Edward Nicholls
Lucy Hird
Sophie Pennock

Benjamin Readman

PE Award:

Oliver Atkins
Jude Barnes
Florence Arnold
Amelia Hargreaves
Sophie Crafts

French Award:

George Jones
Jack Turner
Beatrix Holliday
Neve Woodley
Faye Kitchen
Samuel Pierpoint
Nathaniel Wakelin
Rose Dighton

Deutsch Award

Ben Readman

Latin Award:

Harry Johnson

Headteachers Award:

Ella-Rose Cantwell-Wilkinson
Barnaby Potter
Jack Turner
Emily-Jay Friday
Lucas Jayakesara

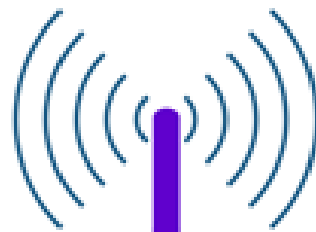
Outdoor Learning Initiative:

Annabel Stevens
Harvey Chapman
Jack Turner
William Arnold
Tiana Mose-Dixon

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