

Ickford News

“Don’t bend down to tie your shoelaces in a revolving door”. This is not an ancient Chinese proverb but simply a bit of common sense. However, I managed to resist giving our visitors from China the benefit of such pearls of wisdom and instead relied on the more sensible, Mme Basnett to talk them through the standards and quality of your children’s work whilst I tackled questions about leadership, funding and state education.

It was a very interesting visit and all very last minute. My friend and one of our illustrious Ickford Learning Trust members, Mr Bill Laar contacted me only yesterday to see if we could accommodate a group from China at such short notice and, as I am of the ‘take us as you find us,’ school of thought, I agreed.

Bill did explain that the group were very interested in education and had also visited a few other educational establishments whilst in England, Harrow School, Magdalen College, Cambridge University and he also dropped in that they had purchased a rather large one in Devon! Having now googled Dr Wilson Sea the CEO of China First Capital Group, I am rather glad I didn’t share my advice about lacing shoes!

We showed the group children’s work from all year groups and through an interpreter, Mme, myself and many of the children were able to explain what we do at Ickford, our expectations, our values and why there are large green beans climbing up the wall of Class 1 spreading roots under the floor and about to explode into a giant peach! In fact, the children in Class 1 must all be able to speak Chinese as they bypassed the interpreter completely and went straight to the top man who seemed to get on

famously with Dylan O’Mahoney in an animated discussion.

What was planned as a short tour, turned into a 3 ½ hour marathon event as Dr Sea and his entourage became increasingly engrossed in the children’s work and in meeting both pupils and teachers. Now, it is difficult as a Londoner when surrounded by a group of Chinese, not to imagine the constant clicking of cameras but of course, such elevated dignitaries are not quite your ‘common all garden’ tourist. That is until Molly Reading stepped up with her research project on China and they could resist no longer! After seeking permission, they clicked away, taking pictures of Molly’s work and, with beaming smiles like a group of children suddenly told they could ‘touch the exhibits’ proceeded to snap at everything they saw.

Mme Basnett and I agreed that the morning was a somewhat surreal and very intense experience and, let’s face it, it is not every visitor that sits in the staffroom and invites one to China, but for me I know in my heart just how good my teachers and support staff are and that their dedication will be manifested in what the children say and do. Nonetheless, I was grateful to Bill for the telephone call late this afternoon to thank me for our hospitality. In his words, our visitors were ‘blown away’ by what they saw and ‘more animated than in any other school they had been to’ (I shall admit at this point that they did also visit another very successful state school in London and the Windmill School in Oxford). We had, Bill said, ‘saved his bacon’ as the other schools had not really ignited any flames of curiosity or engagement in the group as Ickford had.

Our guests were friendly, humble, knowledgeable and , judging by the warm

handshakes and insistence on several photographs with me in front of the school, (They just can't resist) grateful and very welcome to come back.

Sports News

Congratulations to our Key Stage 1 indoor Athletics team who competed at Waddesdon Secondary this week and came second in the area competition. They were pipped by just a few points by Brill who managed to score better in the standing high jump. Having prepared well, the team really did perform brilliantly and I could not have asked for a better performance. Silver medals this time but we shall be back (after my therapy).

We also sent a Cross Country team to Sandhills School yesterday to compete in mixed Year 5 and 6 races in the what turned out to be pouring rain and a miserable afternoon. Despite the difficult conditions, we made a clean sweep and won every race! A special mention must go to Anna Kerry and Matilda Stow both Year 3 girls who ran in the Year 6 race and came 1st and 6th and to Zac Stanfield (Yr. 4) and Harry Johnston (Yr. 3) who came 2nd and 6th in their Year 6 race.

Other news

Can I remind all parents of the importance of informing the school if there are any changes to how your child goes home or who is picking them up? It is absolutely crucial that we have written confirmation of any person who is permitted to take your children home otherwise we will not release the child.

The new website is now live but yet to be completed with information. However, do take a look and see if you like it. Feedback welcome.

Finally

Mrs O'Kennedy, kindly informed that it is a Bank Holiday this weekend so rather disappointingly, Monday is a day off. I hope that the weather improves and that everyone enjoys the extra time with their families.

MrRonane

Ickford NEWS from the office

Dates for your diary...

2 nd May	School Nurse in for YR - Vision, height & weights
13 th -16 th May	SATs Week
21 st May 9am	Class 1 Assembly
23 rd May 9am	Guitar Assembly
24 th May 9.30am	May Dancing
27 th – 31 st May	Half Term
11 th June	School Photos
21 st June 6pm	Summer Concert
4 th July 9am	KS1 Recorder Assembly
5 th July	Summer Fayre
11 th July 6-7.30pm	Open Evening & Art Exhibition
17 th July	Sports Day
22 nd July	Class 4 & 5 Play for grandparents & preschool children
23 rd July	Class 4 & 5 Play - No preschool aged children
24 th July 9am	Leavers Assembly

School Lottery

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>



Sponsors

We are still keen to find a sponsor for the Summer Concert and would welcome any offers.

