

Ickford News

I know we have a good school in fact, I know it is better than good and it is different from other schools. Yet, I still suffer from anxiety and worry that we are not doing well enough.

Last week, the children in Year 6 sat their Standard Attainment Tests (SATs) and, I have to say, I didn't really notice. Apart from making sure that the papers are only taken from the secure cupboard on the day of use and not opened before the test takes place, I don't have much to do with the process and there is no noticeable difference to what goes on as routine at Ickford.

It has been the case since Mme Basnett has taught Year 6 at Ickford that the children either have no nerves or hide them very well. Rather than dread the tests they seem to enjoy being able to show what they can do and everyone seems to have taken them in their stride. In fact, they looked happier going into their tests than they did entering the hall to rehearse their country dancing!

I hope that when the results come back, they will all have got scores they deserve and that reflect the work and effort that they put into everything they do. I also hope they reflect the dedication of Mme Basnett who does so much for each child as an individual and far beyond the normal call of duty.

Regardless of what the SATs mean for the children in terms of Secondary school target grades and in terms of how our school is judged externally, they are also a milestone in the children's year marking the relatively short time before their departure. Therefore, it is important that they and I make sure that the time left is as beneficial and valuable as the time that

has passed. They will already know only too well that, we don't wind down at Ickford. I know that, no matter how good the progress and attainment of the children is now and was last week, it will be better by the time that they leave. Our SATs results in the past 5 years have been exceptional but, most importantly, the great majority of our Year 6 children have left understanding that that being a kind person is just as important as academic success.

May Dancing (not Theresa!) takes place next Friday morning after the French Café and Celebration Assembly so hopefully the weather will be kind and many of you will be able to come and watch. I know that the younger children enjoy it but, judging by the expressions on their faces as mentioned earlier, I am less convinced that the older ones do. All the same, it is a tradition and as such they will have to grin and bear it which I am sure they will do with good grace!

After half term, the year gets extremely busy and I know that Ben is trying round up some volunteers to help with the Fayre. The Summer Concert on June 21st promises to be a wonderful occasion and Mr Jayasakera (Lucas Yr3) has once again offered his excellent culinary skills to provide canapés and gin cocktails. Mr and Mrs O'Kennedy have also made a generous donation towards costs of the event but I am still looking for a main sponsor.

Next week is full of delights including the Class 1 assembly so handkerchiefs at the ready!

Have a good weekend,

Mr Ronane

Ickford News from the office

Dates for your diary...

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.

