

# Ickford News

“Stand back, we’re taking over this Wake n Shake!” are not what one expects to hear at the start of a school assembly. However, that’s exactly what did happen on Tuesday morning (repeated on Friday as I couldn’t resist seeing it again) when Eliza and a ‘mob’ from Class 1 more akin to St Trinian’s than Ickford, executed a successful coup and shook their tail feathers at us as a prelude to their superb and meaningful assembly on the importance of a healthy diet.

I am sure that anyone who watched the assembly on Tuesday will have gone away not only thinking about their diet and that of their children but also amazed at the confidence and ability of the youngest children in the school. They acted, danced and sang and delivered every word by heart in voices that were projected and clear. Not just a couple of children but every one of them. Miss Vukomanovic and her team have done a fantastic job this year with the children in class 1 and with a long half term ahead of us, I am looking forward to what more can be achieved. A start to any journey is so important particularly the one that takes us through our school years.

Whenever, confidence is talked about in school (and that is a great deal) it always causes me concern. I am acutely aware that children of a really young age can be very confident, full of self-belief and unscathed by disappointment resulting from the realisation that maybe not everything is possible whilst as they get older this self-confidence diminishes. For me, it is the great tragedy. The fact that, the more we learn, the more we recognise our weaknesses and the less inclined we are to expose ourselves to the risk of failure. It is something that I often raise

with teachers and that I saw as the challenge for me as a teacher, how to keep the children as enthusiastic and confident throughout each year as they were when they first started school. I think, and I know that others may disagree, that we are fairly successful in ensuring the children who leave Ickford are confident and furthermore, they are resilient.

A testament to this were the presentations made by the Year 6 children putting themselves forward for selection to be May King and May Queen. Each candidate makes a speech to the school putting forward their credentials to be chosen and then every child in the school makes their vote. The speeches this year, were of the highest standard I have seen at Ickford and, as a result, voting was very close indeed. The honour was finally bestowed upon Max Chadbone and Phoebe Wolff and they led Friday’s May dancing with the necessary dignity and humility befitting the role.

The dancing was preceded by a French Café and a huge attendance meant that we were able to make a significant donation to the Diabetes Research department at the John Radcliffe Hospital. The Celebration Assembly was somewhat of a logistical nightmare and I am very grateful to everyone who had the patience to queue before being ushered into the ‘standing room only’ hall. Hopefully, the beautiful weather and the quality of the children dancing made up for any discomfort. Every class made a great effort and each dance proved to be my favourite. Special commendation must go to Mrs Honey who risked life, limb and being tied up by standing in the middle of the Maypole!

Mr Ronane

## Ickford News from the office

### Dates for your diary...

27 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Half Term
11 <sup>th</sup> June	School Photos
17 <sup>th</sup> June 7.30pm	Secondary school transfer meeting for Y5 parents
21 <sup>st</sup> June 6pm	Summer Concert
4 <sup>th</sup> July 9am	KS1 Recorder Assembly
5 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer Fayre
11 <sup>th</sup> July 6-7.30pm	Open Evening & Art Exhibition
17 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day
22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Class 4 & 5 Play for grandparents & preschool children
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Class 4 & 5 Play - No preschool aged children
24 <sup>th</sup> 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>



### Flute Lessons

For any children Year 3-6 that may be interested in learning the Flute, please speak to Mrs Addis for more information. We have a flute teacher in school on a Thursday who has space for more pupils.

### Thank you

A huge thank you on behalf of Mme Basnett and Class 5 to Mrs Campbell a former parent and wife to a Governor, who came in to deliver an afternoon on genetics for the children in year 6. Mrs Campbell is one of the countries leading geneticists and at the top of her profession and we are extremely grateful to her for breaking her busy schedule to do this. The children are always amazed by what they learn and inspired to develop a deeper understanding.

### The Gate

Another huge thank you to Mark Gleed owner of Hazetier Concrete and supporter and sponsor of the school for helping to clear the old garden area and fill the skip. I have had quotes for new fencing and a new, bigger entrance gate so hopefully it will not be too long before you experience the benefits.

### The new website

This is up and running but please be patient as we add to the material on it and populate some of the pages. Hopefully, the site is easier to view on mobile devices and a positive window into the school.