

# Ickford News

The final Celebration Assembly was, much to my delight and in spite of my warning concerning potential length, well attended and those in attendance will, I have little doubt, been as amazed as I was by the Latin play performed by Year 6. The Odyssey was one of my favourite books as a child and to see the children not only enjoying stories from it but also performing one in Latin left me quite in awe and feeling somewhat inadequate that the extent of my own Latin is probably *carpe diem* and *digitus extractus* neither of which will help me to become a Doctor!

I am very grateful to Mr Calcutt who gives up his own time each week to come to school and teach Latin to a group of children in Year 6. The breadth of our curriculum is something I spend quite a lot of time considering and I have no doubt that when word gets around that, "Ickford do Latin" we shall hear more comments similar to the one made by a local Headteacher who referred to Ickford as, "That private state school." The notion that I am trying to create a private school is actually nonsense and, having noticed another school advertising a 'Madame' teaching language, I dare say a few more may be trying to emulate our PSS whilst seemingly taking the...!

We receive our funding from the state and those who send their children here do so by choice. However, rather than simply acquiesce the standard model of a state Primary School we have chosen to push the boundaries and challenge opinions where we can. I am adamant that perceptions of greater opportunity, high quality teaching, more sport, better behaviour and a more diverse curriculum should not be the preserve of the independent schools and determined to prove that all of these are possible in a state school if a number of facets align: High quality teachers, high expectations of good behaviour, parents who value education and strong leadership at all levels.

Unfortunately, money is probably the one resource that we do not have and which the independent sector may have more of and having to rely on the generosity of someone like Mr Calcutt is not an ideal situation to be in. Nevertheless, we shall endeavour to keep moving the school forward and to offer high standards of the core subjects whilst trying to add more to the curriculum. Latin will, I hope, continue next year as will French and Music but I am also hopeful that we will add German to the Year 6 curriculum map and Cultural Studies. Further down the school, we are looking to extend the Computing curriculum and to add a broader creative element to the Art curriculum to enable children to explore different mediums across the year groups. An Art room would be a welcome addition to the building but unfortunately, this is not on the horizon so, just as we always do, we will make the best of what we have and work hard to ensure the children get the curriculum they deserve.

The year comes to an end next week and I hope that everyone has enjoyed it and taken away some good memories. We have a busy few days ahead with Year 6 camping on Monday, the production of Robin Hood on Tuesday and the Leaver's Assembly on Wednesday all still to come so plenty yet to do.

The sports competitions are finished and although some naysayers may regard the year as a disappointing one in terms of results and an indication of decline, I would beg to differ and, if you look at the list of results I have included, I think quite a lot of schools would still envy this year's results.

### **Sports Competitions Results 2018 - 2019**

Yr 5/6 Netball Waddesdon Partnership **1st**

Netball Wheatley Area Partnership (Oxon) **1st**

BISI Badminton Waddesdon Partnership **1st**

Infant Multi skills Waddesdon Partnership **2nd**

Cross Country Turnfurlong **1st** and **3rd** in Y3 Girls **3rd** in Y6 Boys

Year 6 Badminton Regional Finals **1st**

BISI Badminton Regional Finals **1st**

BISI Badminton County Finals **1st**

Year 6 Badminton County Finals **4th**

KS1 BISI Badminton Waddesdon Partnership **1st**

Year 3/4 Tennis Waddesdon Partnership **1st**

AVSAA Cross Country **1st** Year 6 Boys **1st** Year 6 Girls

Year 4 Hockey Waddesdon Partnership **1st**

Hockey Waddesdon Partnership **1st**

KS1 Indoor Athletics **2nd**

Year 5/6 Hockey Waddesdon Partnership **4th**

Cross Country Sandhills 5/6 **1st**

Cross Country Sandhills 3/4 **1st**

Hockey Regional Finals **2nd**

Bisi-Badminton Regional Finals **2nd**

Netball Regional Finals **2nd**

Year 5 Badminton Regional Finals **1st**

AVSAA Athletics **2nd**

(Wheatley Area Partnership Oxon) Athletics **2nd**



Thank you to everyone who helped make our own Sport's Day a great success particularly all of the parents who recognised the work that goes in to organising the day, came along to support and relaxed to watch the children. We managed to add more events this year and gave every child the opportunity to challenge themselves and pick up points for their house. I was particularly impressed by the number of children who chose to enter the long-distance races and the resolve shown in the fact that everyone finished. As expected, the year 6 sprints were exciting to watch as this class has some excellent sprinters and some talented boys in year 2 gave us hope of some exciting times to come. The parent races were a repeat of last year's results with the two Ws, Wooten and Wallace leaving the rest of the field in their wake once again.

Miss Foster will be leaving us at the end of the term and I am sure everyone will join me in thanking her for the time she has spent at Ickford and the support, affection and guidance she has given the children in Class 2. She will be taking up a post at Longwick School in September and we wish her every success there and in the future as her career progresses.

Mrs Horn has also moved on and will start at Larkrise School in September in a shared role with partner in crime, Mrs Foord. I would like to thank her for the two years she has spent at Ickford albeit in a part time capacity. We will miss her upbeat 'hippy vibe' and the camper van!

Finally, I would just like to say that, although not a great fan, I have nothing against cats but yes, I am annoyed by the cat that keeps coming in to school and defecating in the play areas and in front of the children. We have tried many times to communicate with the owner and her family about this but with little success and whilst I understand that people are very passionate about cats I have more passion for the safety and hygiene of children. There are lots of cats around the school but none chose to come in and we have not had this problem before. I am sorry to offend the cat lovers that do not like the fact that I want the cat removed but we have children with allergies and not enough staff or time to follow it around picking up faeces.

School continues as normal for the three days of next week and there will be a final newsletter when we break up for the holiday. The last few days can be a little disquieting for the year 6 children leaving so the aim is to keep things as normal as possible and to continue with learning and teaching. Mr Calcutt may correct me but I think I can finish with,

*Semper ad meliora*, always towards better things.

Mr Ronane

