

Ickford News

Classical music floats through the corridor and into my office, the sun is shining and the school is calm and productive. What more can a Headteacher ask for? (send stamped addressed envelope for list!)

We are very lucky and I am buoyed by the tremendous turnout for the parent evenings last night because to me, it was a sign that you all care about your children's education. The evening gave the teachers the opportunity to outline plans for the year as well as me the chance to reinforce my expectations and to explain some new initiatives.

In school we have a constant cycle of assessment and review on both a collective level as well as an individual basis. This rigorous process enables us to track the progress of every child and to ensure that each one is being appropriately taught and challenged in order to maximise their potential. All assessment is moderated by the whole staff team on a regular basis and when children are identified as not making the progress expected in any area, we 'focus' on those children in order to accelerate their progress and raise their level of attainment.

Sometimes, children remain a 'focus' for the whole academic year but some may only be deemed 'focus' for a half term or one term. There is no set period, instead the time for extra attention is dictated by the rate of progress each child makes and how long it takes to ensure that they are securing an appropriate attainment level.

In the past, we have done this work discretely and sometimes without any additional involvement of parents. From now on, I would like to engage parents in supporting the children we highlight as in

need of some 'focussed' support and we will be contacting anyone for whom this is pertinent.

It is often the case that a focus child will need some additional support in a particular area of the English and Maths curriculum and most will benefit from some extra support at home in the form of short interventions or practise sessions. I am hoping to produce a list of ways in which parents can support those children who, for whatever reason, may have fallen behind or who are not making the progress expected of them.

Having a 'focus' child is nothing to be uncomfortable about. It is completely confidential and the children are not given any form of label or identification. In fact, I hope that parents will recognise this as a sign of a good school trying to ensure that, to coin a phrase, 'no child is left behind'.

As you will have seen, the playground has been resurfaced during the holiday and I have started to erect the new fencing. The new gates certainly seem to be making it easier to access and exit the school but please be patient while I complete the pathway and the rest of the fence. I am very grateful to all parents who have offered to help construct the fence with me and to our sponsors Hazetier and Boardman Windows for their help in this project.

We have a busy term ahead and following on from last night's meetings there will be a phonics workshop towards the end of this month to which all parents are invited. I did say last night that I am happy to organise workshops on any topic parents would like and delighted that someone has already taken me up on this and put in a request for a KS2 maths

session which will be organised for the near future.

We welcomed a new cohort last week some of whom have taken to referring to me as the 'Boss' which, is not a bad start I suppose and obviously something picked up from Miss V! They appear to have settled in well and already I have seen evidence of creative play and even letter and number formation. As usual, at this time in the year, there are a few tears in the mornings but I am usually my normal self by week 3!

It was great to begin celebrating success at assembly this morning and I look forward to next Friday when, all being good, our newest arrivals will join the rest of the school for wake n shake and awards. Mme Basnett will be organising a French Café before assembly so hopefully we shall have some sunshine and an opportunity to welcome new parents to the community. I look forward to it.

Have a good weekend.

Mr Ronane

For Sale

Protégé Trumpet £125 o.n.o.

Contact Mr Ronane

Ickford News from the office

Dates for your diary...

20 th Sept 8.40am	French Café
24 th Sept 7.30pm	Phonics & Reading Workshop
7 th October	Harvest Festival,

2.30pm	St Nicholas Church
22 nd October	Class 5 Visit to Bletchley Park
23 rd October	Flu Vaccinations
28 th Oct – 1 st Nov	Half Term
7 th November	School Photos
14 th Nov	Class 4 Visit to Rivers & Rowing Museum
14 th Nov 7.30pm	McAfee Internet Safety Talk
19 th Nov 7.30pm	Maths Workshop
18 th Dec	Whole School Pantomime Trip – Beauty and the Beast
19 th Dec	Inset Day

School Lottery

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>

