

Ickford News

We all love a granny or a nan, David Walliams has even written a book about them, but if they are responsible for bringing children to school and collecting them, please make sure that they are fully briefed about school procedures and policies so that they don't cross the Big Bad Wolf! I love our staff and they have enough to put up with without being bombarded by concerns (read demands) no doubt with good intentions, from adoring grandparents.

Some may think me a "sandwich short of a picnic" but that can't be said of every child's lunch box and, I need to clarify that I have asked the midday supervisors and teachers not to force or coerce any children into eating when they do not want to. Every child sits down to lunch at 12.15pm and we encourage them to have a sociable lunch with their friends. They are not able to leave the classroom until 12.30pm when they can go on to the field or the playground or to take part in a lunchtime club. For the huge majority of children in Years 2 to 6 this seems to be enough time to eat, in fact, we have to insist on at least 15 minutes to prevent some rushing lunch to get outside.

Those who need to take longer can do so but we move those children still eating to one classroom in order to make supervision easier. We try to get every child outside by 12.45pm so that they get a chance to let off steam or at least relax (some will choose to 'chillax' on a beanbag in the library).

At this point in the year, this is all very new to the children in Reception Class and though some cope easily, others take more time to find their feet so we have a member of staff with them when they are eating for longer than 30 minutes. I know

from experience that eventually, each child will be able to eat lunch within the allocated time and enjoy a decent break.

The teachers and supervisors have not got the luxury of being able to afford each child a personal service of sitting next to them and feeding them. They already have to supervise behaviour, unwrap plastic bags, find spoons, open yoghurts, wipe spillages, monitor toilet visits and deal with tears (mine). If you are worried that your child has only eaten one or two of their sandwiches or left the fruit and only eaten biscuits, then you have to consider more carefully what you are putting in to the lunch boxes in the first place. There are one or two with enough to feed five thousand without the assistance of any miracles!

We have children with specific difficulties and these are monitored and catered for. We have a ban on nuts and we have a healthy eating policy which we hope parents will read and take advice from. What I can't have is a tailored lunch service to suit the needs of every individual desire. Trust me, no one is going to die of starvation during the school day.

Mme Basnett ran a French café this morning and made it clear that proceeds would be put towards a Spa Day for Helen Harris whom many of you will know from the pre-school next door. The response and generosity were overwhelming and £270 was raised enabling us to purchase a Spa Day for Helen and a friend (I am available). I want to thank everyone who came along and enjoyed a bit of 'entente cordiale' before the celebration assembly.

The assembly was another 'first' for the children in Reception and it was lovely to watch them 'waking n shaking' with the rest of the school. It is always lovely to see

the children dancing with the abandonment of self-consciousness that sadly creeps up on us as we advance through the years.

Our Celebration Assembly is something we all look forward to and since its inception it has evolved into a significant part of our school identity. We welcome everyone to come along and understand that for some, that means bringing pre-school age children. Now, I love little children (I couldn't eat a whole one) but our assembly is also part of fulfilling our statutory requirement to have an act of worship in school as well as a chance to share and celebrate achievement. In short, it is principally for the pupils and staff and we would like to avoid any unnecessary distractions. I delight in the parents and friends being there especially as the more experienced parents have become very good at slipping out discretely at the first signs of disturbance as well as understanding that toys spread across the floor, balls and food are also not a great idea if you want to avoid the risk of "the look" or worse still, the rare but potential "Would you mind removing the child please?"

Hopefully, this newsletter will be enough to clarify a few points that make life so much easier but please come and see me if you need further clarification.

I hope that everyone is looking forward to the Rugby World Cup. I am trying to work out if we can get God's great game on to one of our 80-inch flat screens so that we can have a community screening of a match or two. Life rarely gets better!

Have a good weekend.

Mr Ronane

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 2.30pm	Harvest Festival, 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>



