

Ickford News

Getting off to a good start in anything is essential so I was very pleased to see so many of the new Reception parents attending the phonics and reading workshop held during the week. As usual, Miss Vukomanovic managed to involve everyone in some fun with letters and sounds and thankfully no-one fell asleep when I spoke about supporting reading. Admittedly, I would like to see every parent attending but the turnout was good and I am confident that we have given children a good start in offering this.

Reading is the foundation of everything we do and, as anyone who has children at Ickford will know, we expect parents and carers to be engaged in supporting their children throughout their reading development. I completely understand that most of us have busy lives and that time is a commodity that we don't always have enough of but, that 10 minutes quality time reading with your child (at any age) is invaluable and time well spent investing in their future. Unfortunately, there appears to be an increase in the number of children who 'do' their reading homework in the car on the way to school. This is not good practice and although I would encourage reading in the car on long journeys to pass the time (if that is possible without suffering travel sickness) reading in the back seat whilst being driven to school and then getting the reading record signed is not really going to support a child particularly if they are less than fluent. I must urge everyone to try and find that 10 minutes, 'quality' time in the day to spend with your child listening to, reading with and talking about a book.

It is disappointing but, the torrential rain earlier in the week may have ended our

use of the school field for a while and the mysterious world of 'Dens and Diamonds' that the children have created and passed down through the year groups, shall be put on hold until either snow or summer sun enables access again. How great it is to have a much better playground space to offer the children which, thanks to the incredible generosity of Hanson UK Ltd, changed from wishful thinking to a reality during the summer holiday.

I can now publicly thank Karen Wright a parent (Lucas C4) and an employee of Hanson UK for her tremendous help in securing the backing of Hanson UK through her role managing their graduate apprentice programme. When, early in the year I approached Karen to see if we could get any help with resurfacing she came up with the idea of combining individual trainee projects into one joint venture and set about getting the project agreed by Hanson's CEO. Karen also introduced me to Andy Harrison a surfacing expert and Civil Engineering expert and the rest, as they say, is history.

Andy hails from Gloucester and admitted that he had not stepped inside a school since leaving at 15. When I first met him, he brought along another civil engineer, Andy Channon also a Gloucester man and season ticket holder at Kingsholm the home of Gloucester Rugby Club. You can guess that we hit it off immediately and though the project was the responsibility of the Hanson trainees, the two Andys, ensured that the job would be overseen and carried out professionally. Andy Harrison also managed to secure a donation from a plant company that, in his words, "Owed him a favour" and the services of Wilson & Scott to add new netball courts and playground games for free!

It is difficult to know how to thank enough Hanson UK for what they have done or indeed the two Andys, the team of trainees who shared their load of the work and ensured the job was finished before the children came back after the summer and, of course Karen without whom, none of this would have happened. I hope that Hanson UK can benefit from knowing they have done something that I did not think possible in the current financial climate and in doing so have relieved some of the pressure I face planning for our future. Large companies often get bad press but I hope that people will recognise that Hanson UK did something very special for us.



Attached to the parentmail containing the newsletter, you should find a form which explains Pupil Premium. If you think you qualify for this, it is incredibly important that you read and complete the form. Sadly, we are not in a position to offer a free hot meal but, if your child is entitled to extra funding, it would be foolish not to apply for it.

Have a good weekend,

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 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>

