

Ickford News

I am surprised that any of you were caught out by the flooding this week! When the Headteacher is driving around with a kayak strapped to the top of his car, surely suspicions should have been alerted. The poor teachers who know when they start (we tell them at interview) Ickford's reputation for not closing when it snows, are now concerned that I will be paddling to their homes to collect them!

Fortunately, the deluge did not dampen spirits and they were indeed very high when Class 3 went to the cinema on Monday to see the Horrible Histories film, The Rotten Romans. There and back by lunch and filled with the stories of Empire and dissent this was a great start to their week as well as a valuable learning experience.

Class 3s enthusiasm made me very hopeful of a repeat experience when I joined Classes 4 and 5 for their trip to the cinema on Tuesday. Having, convinced Mme Basnett to hold the fort in Ickford and show potential parents around, I jumped aboard the coach looking forward to a couple of hours entertainment. Our film was The Missing Link, a new animation with a plot that follows an English explorer who encounters a Sasquatch and must escort him to his Yeti cousins in the Himalayas. Sadly, that is as in depth as my review gets, as soon as the film started, I feel asleep and woke as the final credits rolled. I have accompanied groups of children to loads of films over the years and not managed to stay awake for one yet! Thankfully, the children and other staff all enjoyed themselves.

On Wednesday our competitive sports programme continued and our Year 3 and 4 Badminton Team competed in this year's area BISI competition. This is an event we have won a number of times and I am delighted that the team secured first place medals again in spite of strong opposition and some challenging technical tasks to overcome. As always, the children performed to their best ability and worked successfully as a team. Now we shall continue working to ensure the best possible opportunities for success with all of our Badminton teams this year.



I am always pleased that our children take part in healthy activities both in school and, judging by the number of awards brought to assembly, outside of school. What concerns me however, is the number of children who, at a really young age, own mobile phones and most worrying have what would appear to be, unrestricted access to social media sites. This became apparent this week during the talks from McAfee with the KS1 and the KS2 children. I admit, I may be getting old and accept that it may not be anything to do with me but, the show of hands of children with *Facebook* accounts and *What's App* accounts concerns me. I am also concerned that the law is not clear but it is generally considered to be illegal for a child under 13 to have a social media account.

I have to accept that we can only do our best and try to educate children and their parents about the dangers of the internet and in particular social-media. Having witnessed the number of hands raised in the hall claiming ownership of mobile devices and social media accounts, I can't help at being depressed by the low turnout to the parents talk given by McAfee yesterday evening (12 people). Try as we may, it seems impossible to convince the parent body that this is a real threat just as it seems impossible to keep up with the number of apps that are inherently dangerous but if I do nothing else I want to flag up something called TIK TOK, something I hope no child at Ickford will have access to.

If you get a chance to, listen to Mme Basnett when she addresses her class, the eldest in the school. She always refers to them as 'children' not 'class' not 'guys' but children. I see so many areas of education where adults seem afraid to use the word for fear of offending a 'young person' or a 'young adult'. In my opinion, they are children at Primary School and they are children at Secondary School and I wish we didn't try and make them grow up so quickly. They need proper care, protection from those who seek to exploit them and the opportunity just to be children for as long as they can.

Mr Ronane

Ickford NEWS from the office

Dates for your diary...

11 th Nov	Class 3 Cinema Trip
12 th Nov	Class 4&5 Cinema Trip
14 th Nov	Class 4 Visit to Rivers & Rowing Museum
14 th Nov 7.30pm	McAfee Internet Safety Talk
18 th – 22 nd Nov	Bikability Training
19 th Nov 7.30pm	Maths Workshop
1 st December 10-11am	St Nicholas Service, Class 5 Ickford Church
6 th December 9-10:30am	Governor Morning & 'Parent Surgery'
6 th December	Christmas Fayre
10 th Dec	KS1 Nativity for Grandparents & Pre School Aged Children
12 th Dec 7-8pm	KS1 Nativity (no preschool aged children)
13 th Dec 9am	French Assembly
16 th Dec	Christmas Lunch
17 th Dec 7-8pm	KS2 Carols in the Church
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>

