

Ickford News

I must begin with sport because, it will be no surprise that, in light of recent success, there is a team, a squad who deserve to be praised. Any coach will tell you that winning tournaments is about not looking too far ahead, taking each game as it comes and having players prepared to perform under increasing pressure. Only a minority of supporters have been able to travel and share in the celebrations that victory brings but they have been rewarded with an outstanding achievement and great entertainment. So well done to the Ickford Netball squad who won the Area competitions for our Buckinghamshire Sports Partnership on Wednesday and then repeated the success on Thursday winning our Oxfordshire Partnership event as well. Sadly, being in Bucks prevents us from going through to the South Regional Finals for Oxfordshire (again) but it is superb that a team from Ickford have now won the Bucks event 7 years in a row and will once again compete in the Regional Finals for a chance to make the County Finals in July.

We have been fortunate to have had so many naturally talented players over the years, several of whom now play at a high level such as Charlotte Basnett only 16 but in the Wasps U19 Academy and her sister Elisabeth playing for the South Regional U19 team, Madyson Carter playing for Milton Keynes Dons U14, and Ruby Ilsley playing for the South Regional U15 team to name a few. Nevertheless, this year's team really do deserve praise because several of them only started playing at the start of the year and no-one in the team had any experience of playing a competitive match prior to September.

They have worked hard and supported each other and they fully deserve their chance to emulate the success of past teams. I am very proud of all of them particularly those that have trained but did not get picked to play. I have no doubt that, with such determination, their day will come. Oh, and England beat the All Blacks.

Perhaps it is the 'positive attitude' so perfectly highlighted in the Class 4 assembly this week and possessed by most Ickford children, that enables the success that they have in so many areas. It was wonderful to watch the class present such an entertaining yet meaningful 'live' TV broadcast all about being positive and looking for the good in everything. As usual, the children learned their roles by heart and presented their messages using acting, film, poetry and song and the whole school were uplifted by what they had to say. It is so important that our older children are able to inspire the younger children and to act as such good role models for them.

Several past pupils turned up at the Celebration Assembly on Friday owing to their secondary schools having INSET days. I don't think that their parents force them so I have to take it as a compliment that they choose to come back and see what is going on. One reason they return is, I know, because of Mme Basnett, their last teacher and someone I think they hold a genuine affection for when they leave because they appreciate her tireless work for them when they are in their final year here. It was the turn of the current Year 6 to visit Bletchley Park this week as part of the Britain at War topic that they study in History and, as usual, Mme ensured that the trip was a huge success.



Hopefully, some of you may have looked at the website recently and clicked on the link to the Ickford Citizen. This is the blog that the School Council maintain and use to promote their activities in school and this year, Mrs O’Kennedy is giving up time to support them in their efforts. I know that they are already looking at the suggestions from their classmates and that it will not be too long before they come knocking on my door looking to negotiate. I shall have to have my wits about me!

Unfortunately, we have had to accept the loss of Mr Cave from the staff. For those who were unaware, Mr Cave is a goalkeeping coach as well as a Pastoral Support Officer and, during the summer, he was approached by Fulham Football Club to take up a position coaching the children in their academy. He was loath to leave Ickford and I was sad to lose him after such a short time but it was too good an opportunity for him to turn down and I was certainly not about to stand in his way. As well as taking PE lessons, Mr Cave was setting up a ‘listening’ service for pupils and helping to support the year 6 children in particular with their transition to Secondary school. I am keen to keep this going as part of our commitment to ensuring our pupils mental as well as physical well-being and I am delighted that Miss Southgate has agreed to take on

the role of Pastoral Support Officer (PSO). She has completed her first certified course in child counselling and has started another but regardless of these, I think she is the perfect person to be a first port of call for any child who may be anxious about something whatever age.

This parent /teacher evenings were very well attended this week, a good sign for any Headteacher. I trust that everyone has had frank and honest discussions about children and that you have clarity in regards of where they are achieving success and where they need to improve. I am always happy to meet with anyone who would like to discuss their children in greater detail. Children they say, do not care what you know, until they know you care and I am confident that I have teachers and support staff at Ickford who really care. We have taken a couple of knocks in this half term but do I doubt our value? No. As Class 4 reminded me, I just think of Dr Zeus:



“And will you succeed?
Yes! You will, indeed!
(98 and 3/4 percent
guaranteed.)

Finally, we must congratulate Ayla Sallé in Class 5 for being the first pupil to pick up 4 class awards in one week. Ayla sets a great example for the other children to follow.

I hope everyone has a good half term break. I am off to tackle some rapids and hike a few hills. Bus man’s holiday really!

Mr Ronane

Ickford News from the office

Dates for your diary...

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
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>



Village Hall Parking

A message from Maureen

Just a heads up, the Village Hall carpark is being resurfaced after half term, so if you could maybe include a note in your newsletter asking people not to park there on 6th, 7th and 8th November, that would be great. Hopefully it won't cause too much disruption.

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