

Ickford News



At 11.00 am tomorrow the whole school will respect a two minute silence before listening to our year 6 children recite, 'In Flanders Fields'. Each year, without fail, we commemorate those who gave their lives in conflict. Some years we have held full assemblies such as last year when everyone dressed up and we took ourselves back to the 1940s or the year before when Calantha Smith moved us all to tears playing the Last Post on her trumpet but this year, it will be simple and short but nonetheless important.

I recently updated our History Policy and under the heading, *Intention* it includes, 'To engage and inspire children to want to learn about the past' a tough challenge for any teacher who might agree with Henry Ford's 1916 statement, "History is bunk". Personally, I love studying the past and have never found History boring though my knowledge of key dates is not particularly strong! I was, I believe inspired by some very good lecturers at University and I am keen to ensure that the children here have the opportunity to learn from inspired teachers. The past is inescapable and if we only use as examples the events of this week and the next, Armistice Day the end of World War 1 on November 11th 1918 and the fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9th 1989 surely, we can justify learning about the past in order to avoid the same mistakes in the future.

In reality, there are many relevant histories that children can be inspired by. For example, the history of the planet is studied by geographers and geologists; evolution and our biological past studied by biologists and zoologists; and the

history of our universe and beyond by astrophysicists, how can we understand climate change without knowing about the past? I always point out to children the 'story' in the word History and I try to inspire them by letting them explore what it is to be living characters in a great story. Understanding the past, helps us to establish our own secure place within the unfolding saga of time.

It is not quite the Berlin Wall, but in spite of torrential rain and with the amazing help of past parent Mr Gleed, I was able to get the rest of the old fencing down ready for the big push to erect the rest of the new one. Things may look a bit untidy at the moment and somewhat muddy but the site is secure and I am hopeful that I can get things in good order in the not too distant future. The overall aim is to have the site future proofed in terms of the playground surface and fencing and then to have new playground equipment installed for the children. I know that the PTA will be heavily involved in purchasing any playground equipment so trust me, any events that you support such as the forthcoming dinner and the Christmas Fayre will be raising money to have a direct impact on all of the children.

One way in which any subject but particularly History can be made more engaging is getting the children out on a visit. The children in KS2 are all out at the cinema this week and Class 4 will also be visiting the Henley Rivers and Waterways Museum. I am a huge believer in enrichment of the curriculum in this way but acutely aware that the costs of transport and entrance are constantly increasing. Please be assured that the school subsidises all trips whenever possible by as much as possible but I am really grateful to parents for continuing to support outings. I worry that, there may

come a time when parents say enough is enough which will be a sad day indeed but if you do have concerns about being asked for donations towards school outings please feel that you can come and talk to me in complete confidence.

This week I must congratulate our KS1 multi-skills team who won the Area competition at Waddesdon last week. It is an event that we have had a great deal of success in over the past 9 years but came second last year. It was nice to get back on top and the children were a credit to the school in the way they behaved and performed at the tournament. The future of sport looks bright.

On Thursday evening at 7.30pm, someone from McAfee, the internet security company will be giving a talk for parents about on-line safety. I would really recommend coming along as considering the dangers and the number of children (of all ages) in possession of mobile technology it is important to hear this talk. Each time we have such an event, I am amazed by the new risks and the consequences for young people who are caught out by the deceptive and often lurid world of social media so, for your children's sake, come along and listen. I would like to think that for once, everyone took this seriously and availed of this opportunity to help protect your children.

Mr Ronane

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>



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

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