

# Ickford News

If I am honest, I had hoped to write an uplifting newsletter this week particularly with being so delighted by the performance of Mme Basnett and the rest of the team here in my absence.

Although the newsletter is a great way to keep everyone informed about the goings on in school and the success of events, because it is widely read and indeed anything controversial in it soon sent along the parent drum network, I have to also use it to communicate things that may not be so welcome.

Once again, attendance is an issue and, rather than opt for an easy life and acquiesce any adverse attendance, I choose to highlight it because, as I have said many, many times those very few that choose to exploit the system have a detrimental impact on the children of the massive majority who do not. There are 190 days of school in the year leaving 175 to enjoy as you will some, it appears, feel entitled to more.

Our teachers work really hard. They plan, prepare and evaluate ready to ensure each child makes progress and it is not easy. When children struggle to make progress, the teachers work harder and we channel our very limited human and physical resources into the support of individual children. When children are absent from school, they don't make progress and, depending on the length of absence, will indeed fall behind. The cycle perpetuates and when we have to channel extra resources to individual children, others miss out.

The other issue with absence is that children are often asked to 'disguise' it putting them in a very awkward situation

when surrounded by friends with whom they want to share their 'secret'. Trust me, they can't and I think it is incredibly unfair to expect children to 'cover' or to be 'dishonest' particularly when they value honesty so much.

We all have genuine reasons for unexpected absence and I am well aware that some children will be unwell or have medical needs that take them out of school. These are the children who need and deserve our additional resources and the children for whom I will fight to get whatever we can. Unfortunately, the few who take advantage of the system for selfish reasons, create a shadow of doubt over genuine absence requests that lingers over all of us and this is unfair.

There are, as I say, schools perhaps more flexible in their approach. I am sure some of them are good and perhaps some of them have spaces.

## Good news

Congratulations to our 5/6 Badminton Teams who this week won the area competition and also took second place. I was really disappointed not to be there but delighted in the result and the feedback.

Last Friday's fine dining event was a tremendous success and we are indebted to Larry Jayasekara for being such a fantastic Chef and to the PTA for helping him to organise the event. I have just heard the news that £6750 was raised! This is a monumental amount and way beyond expectations, thank you to everyone who purchased tickets and bid for auction prizes.

Mr Ronane

# Ickford News from the office

## Dates for your diary...

1 <sup>st</sup> December 10-11am	St Nicholas Service, Class 5 Ickford Church
6 <sup>th</sup> December 9-10:30am	Governor Morning & 'Parent Surgery'
6 <sup>th</sup> December 5.30-7pm	Christmas Fayre
10 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2pm	KS1 Nativity for Grandparents & Pre School Aged Children
12 <sup>th</sup> Dec 7-8pm	KS1 Nativity (no preschool aged children)
13 <sup>th</sup> Dec 9am	French Assembly
16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Lunch
17 <sup>th</sup> Dec 7-8pm	KS2 Carols in the Church
18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Whole School Pantomime Trip – Beauty and the Beast
19 <sup>th</sup> 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>



## Meet the Governors

On Friday December 6<sup>th</sup> we are having a Governor Morning and as part of this, the Governors are offering a 'surgery' when anyone with any questions can put them forward. I believe that Governors will be available in the staffroom.

## Thank You

Many thanks to everyone who has sent me good wishes and offers of assistance. Your support and generosity are very much appreciated.