

Ickford News

It is not often that I get a newsletter out early but one of the by products of being confined to the office and working intensely at my admin is being up to date with paper-work.

The main reason for sending this early is to plug the Christmas Fayre this evening which, as you will see on page 2, begins at 5.30pm. A great deal of effort from various parents goes in to organising the Fayre and I really hope that everyone shows their appreciation by turning up. I know that Ben has sent a PTA mail out and listed some of the things that are going on and it looks like great fun and a chance to enter into the festive spirit a little early.

I know that these events are perceived as fundraisers and indeed, any money that is raised really helps to provide things for the children but for me, they are crucially important in building a sense of 'community' and as opportunities for our stakeholders to get to know each other. Although the Fayre may not hold the promise of a Michelin quality fine dining, a natter with someone over a turkey roll and a glass or two of mulled wine may be all that is needed to initiate a friendship.

I am convinced that a huge part of Ickford School's success is the commonality amongst the community. I hope, that amongst the great majority, the school aims and values are concurred and the reason for being at Ickford is not only because of results in English and Maths but also because of the learning environment created.

In the past few weeks Mme Basnett and myself have shown lots of potential new parents around and the feedback from

these visits has been extremely positive. I encourage visits because whilst our published results may paint a rosy picture and might be enough to convince a parent that this is the place to send their child, there is much more to the school that they need to consider and much more that adds value.

The 'school tour' also gives me the opportunity to be very 'straight' with those interested in a place and I am sure some of you will remember the, *"I don't mind where you live but we start at 9.00am, wear a uniform and don't take holidays during term time"* speech that I give to everyone. This year's parents have been particularly enthusiastic and wholeheartedly agreed that this is what they are looking for and why they want to choose Ickford. I can only hope that those who get places, don't suddenly forget what they signed up to!

Mr Ronane

Hair

I have intended for some time now to remind parents about the policy regarding long hair and haircuts. If any pupil's hair is at their shoulders it must be tied back. If you need a rule of thumb, I suggest that if it can be tied back, it should be.

There has been a growing trend amongst the girls of a style that ties back a central strand and fringe but leaves the rest long. This style is no longer permitted.

Please remember that hair adornments are not permitted apart from hair bands, ribbons and hair ties and these should be green.

Hair gel or similar products are not permitted and neither are coloured hair dyes.

Razor cuts and overtly 'fashion' cuts are not permitted.

In short, the children should come to school looking neat and tidy and like school children.

Thank you for the support in this.

Attendance

Last week's newsletter dealt with the problem of unauthorised attendance. Although there are only a few families who persist in this practice without any regard for the impact on others, it is an issue. I am grateful that the Governing Body has sent out a letter clarifying their position.

I am aware that it is not only parents who have been with the school some time but also parents new to the school. I am currently looking in to the impact of unauthorised absence on our criteria for admissions of siblings as we are able to take control of our admissions at the EYFS. I shall update you of any changes.

Staffing

I would like to thank every staff member at Ickford for their complete dedication and support whilst I have been compromised by injury. Obviously, Mme Basnett has been fantastic in stepping in to the leadership role but less visible is the magnificent effort of every member of staff, teaching and non-teaching in supporting me and the children.

Mrs Lintott will be leaving us at the end of this term and we will welcome Miss Allen to the team. I'd like thank Mrs Lintott for her work here and wish her every success in the future.

Ickford News from the office

Dates for your diary...

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 5.30-7pm	Christmas Fayre
10 th Dec 2pm	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>

