

# Ickford News

If I am really honest, it can be quite difficult to produce a newsletter on a weekly basis. Not every week can be filled with newsworthy events and, though it may be hard to believe, sometimes it is just a *normal* school. Nonetheless, I only have myself to blame for starting the trend and thankfully I have a team here who ensure it is only *normal* for very few weeks in the year.

A testament to their work is the letter sitting on my desk from the Right Hon Nick Gibb MP, Minister of State for School Standards (which will be put in the box alongside the other 6) congratulating us on:

“The very high level of progress that pupils in your school demonstrated in the reading, writing and mathematics KS2 assessments last year.”

The letter goes on to state that:

“in terms of progress your pupils make between KS1 and the end of KS2, your school is amongst the top 3% of Primary Schools in the country.”

Firstly, I want to thank everyone who works at Ickford and I want to thank all of the children and those parents who support what we do and the way in which we do it. I am sorry that there are critics but (stop reading now the vociferous, anonymous ones) but not sorry that we remain constant in our high expectations. To be recognised as one of the best performing schools in the country for the past 5 years, is a result of many things but I am adamant that the most fundamental are, outstanding teaching, full attendance and good behaviour. I will continue to ensure that these three are prioritised.

You might imagine I can sit back and admire our ministerial letter for a while, change nothing and start to consider whether golf may be an option but you would be seriously deluded (Golf? Yuk!). We are currently reviewing the whole curriculum and the way in which we can build cumulative knowledge for every child in each subject area as they move through the year groups. It requires a great deal of thought, planning and discussion but, we are well on the way to making some changes that I believe will only enhance the educational offer at Ickford for every child. I am hopeful that it will not be much longer before new curriculum maps will be available on the website for you to access.

Without doubt, Science is a popular subject amongst our pupils and last week's 'Move It Science' focus will turn out to be one of the highlights of the year. I would imagine that most of you will have been regaled by stories of launching rockets, sailing hovercrafts and making jet propelled cars as well as entertaining workshops and a great day out in London at the Science Museum. I have loved taking part in some of the activities and watching different children come out of their shells enthused by the world around them. You can't beat launching a bottle of water some 50m into the air and soaking your Headteacher. Well, actually, you can. You chat up the museum employee into giving you a discount so that your class get to fly in the Red Arrows flight simulator and top trump everyone! Hopefully, a gallery of pictures will be available on the website next week so that you get further insight into the whole week. Thank you to those who sponsored and supported us.

I am not sure how many of you read the Ickford Informer but the Governing Body are concerned that a recent article by an

Ickford resident, may at the least cause some confusion and at worst, panic.

I would like to put on record that the school has not received any money from recent housing developments in the neighbouring villages nor the promise of money from those proposed in Ickford. Furthermore, there are no immediate plans to expand or build new classrooms. It is true that other schools have received funding from housing developments closer to Ickford but these matters are dealt with by Local Authorities.

There is another story that the Parish Council proposes to spend rather a lot of money on a running track. Whether this is true or not, I have no idea but, I can categorically state that this has nothing to do with the school. We are concerned only with trying to improve the experience of the children that attend Ickford and I can assure you that the budget is very limited and difficult to balance. Our priority at the moment is trying to secure funding to replace the boilers and control panels in the Sports Hall.

Perhaps the author of the Informer piece, who happens to be selling the land at Turnfields, would prefer to donate to have the entrance to the recreation ground resurfaced properly? At least then access to the Olympic running track would be easier. Secretly, we used science week to identify a way of designing our own boilers and thought the children would be excellent at coming up with a way of using all the 'hot air' from planning arguments to heat the Sports Hall!

Time to watch the rugby.

Mr Ronane

## Ickford NEWS from the office

### Dates for your diary...

4 <sup>th</sup> February 7pm	Y5/6 Residential Meeting
6 <sup>th</sup> February	Class 3 Visit to Waddesdon Manor
10 <sup>th</sup> February	Parents Evening
13 <sup>th</sup> February	Class 3 Assembly
13 <sup>th</sup> February	Parents Evening
17 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Half Term

### Bike Pumps

Thank you to the parents who bought in bike pumps for Science Week. Please come to the School Office to claim yours, none are named.

### 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>



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