

Ickford News

I think it best to let another Headteacher open the newsletter this week, one that may be known to some of you. Professor Albus Dumbledore, he of Hogwart's School of Wizardry who defined music as, "A magic beyond all we do here".

There is, without doubt, something quite magical about the power of music. It has been said (though not by Dumbledore) that music can express emotions that cannot be spoken and, although I had pretty much lost my voice beforehand, I was rendered speechless by the sheer joy on the faces of the children this afternoon when they listened to and accompanied the Carducci Quartet.

We are extremely fortunate to have been able to get the Quartet back to Ickford and I am truly indebted to the Cavatina Trust for enabling this to happen. The Carducci Quartet are renowned throughout the music world as one of best group of musicians playing Chamber Music and I can personally attest to their gifts not only as musicians but also as people. Today, they extended their concert to provide a workshop for the children in Year 5 and 6 and gave these children the opportunity to accompany them performing two pieces for the rest

of the school. This was the opportunity of a lifetime and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who took part, I can only hope that the afternoon will be etched in the memories of the children and help to inspire as many as possible to continue with their musicianship when they leave Ickford.

Thankfully, we have our very own 'inspirational' musician and teacher, the wonderful Mrs Shackleton who should be very proud of what the children achieved today. Without her endless patience and skilful instruction, the children would not be as confident reading music and playing instruments as they are. I now know only too well (another story) how time consuming maintaining the school instruments is and it is easy to forget that, behind the scenes, she has to tune 40 violins and rosin 40 bows each week! I thank her on behalf of every child.



I believe that Quidditch is the game of choice at Hogwarts but here at Ickford the competition of choice this

week was Badminton as we contested the second inter-schools Area Festival of the year, the Year 3/4 Bisi-Badminton competition.

This is a tournament that tests technical ability rather than match play and it is always an intense affair that requires a great deal of focus and concentration. With one eye on next year, I entered two teams with the intention of giving some of the younger children tournament experience including Harry Johnson who is still only in Year 2. The whole squad worked really hard in the practice sessions and this certainly paid off as our A team were overall winners and the B team, rather than just enjoy the experience, actually came third pushing a Long Crendon team all the way. This was the sixth year in succession that we have won this tournament, a statistic anyone would be proud of, I certainly am.



I have to thank Mme Basnett for stepping in this morning and taking assembly as, probably to relief of many, not least my class, my voice has all but disappeared. Mme Basnett can always be guaranteed to be in good spirits on December 1st as she considers this the start of the festive season and she did not let us down today. Several seasonal events commence now beginning with the Nativity performance next Tuesday so keep an eye on your diaries and make sure you have the correct times.

The Christmas Fayre next week is probably the most time consuming in terms of preparation and I know that the PTA are still keen to attract volunteers to help out and still on the lookout for raffle and tombola prizes and teddy bears. If you are new to Ickford (or a seasoned pro) and have any spare time, please contact Ben, Richard or Victoria and offer your services.

Busy days ahead and I may not be Dumbledore but I am sure we can conjure up some magic moments and more memorable experiences before the term ends.

Have a good weekend,
Mr Ronane

Ickford News from the office

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Dates for your diary...

4 th December	Year 5 & 6 Swimming Lessons
5 th December 2-3pm	KS1 Nativity for whole school, grandparents and siblings
7 th December	Year R – Year 4 Flu Vaccinations
7 th December 6.30-7.30pm	KS1 Nativity (No pre-school aged children)
*8 th December 5.30-7pm	Christmas Fayre
12 th December 9am	French Assembly
*14 th December	*Christmas Lunch
14 th December 6.30pm	KS2 Carols at St Nicholas Church, Ickford
15 th December	Whole school trip to Pantomime
15 th December 2.30-3.30pm	Celebration Assembly
18 th Dec – 2 nd January	Christmas Holidays
3 rd January	First day back to School

*Date/time change

School Lottery

Last week's lucky lottery winner was Thomas O'Malley.

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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TIDDINGTON GARAGE

