

# Ickford News

Going to meetings is not, I shall admit, my greatest pleasure but every now and again I am compelled to attend a Headteacher's meeting as I did this week. My fellow Headteachers are all very nice people and, though I like them all, I can't help being puzzled at a comment often directed at me with a wry smile, "You run a tight ship John." Maybe my confusion is because I can't see what is wrong with a 'tight ship' surely those that are not...sink.

A great deal of the meeting focussed on school attendance and ways in which the schools in the group can support each other and in particular, assist those schools for whom poor attendance is an issue. I listened with intent to conversation around different coloured levels of attendance, penalty notices, warnings, attendance awards and all things that often come up in such conversations until eventually compelled to add that, in order to raise attendance, the principal objective should be to make school something that is worthwhile to attend.

At Ickford, I believe that we do this in several ways. First and foremost by ensuring that teachers prioritise high quality teaching and learning in every lesson and to help them in achieving this, we try to ensure that they have the best of resources and the time to prepare and plan properly. In addition, we also have very good, professional teaching assistants who understand that their role is to support every child within the classroom environment. Coupled with a whole school recognition of the importance of not wasting time, ensures that our ship sails true. Thankfully, I have not suffered the ignominy of a Headteacher given as an example during a

training course who, whilst facing the media asking questions about an issue that had involved the school and photographed for a local newspaper, unwittingly stood in front of a display about the Titanic.

It was a 'titanic' effort this week that saw us win two more Badminton tournaments. On Tuesday our Year 4/5 team won the Area tournament for their age group and today (Friday) our Year 5/6 team won the Regional Competition and earned a place in the County Finals alongside the Year 3/4 team in two weeks' time. Each year group plays a different form of the game with Year 3/4 it is BISI badminton that requires expertise in a variety of techniques. Years 4/5 play the normal game but in teams using a rotation system on court whilst Year 6 plays the full game in singles and doubles format. It was great to watch the older pupils today as most of them have come through the ranks and have played in each year group and most already have Area and Regional medals hanging in their lockers. The County Finals in a couple of weeks will be a tough test but we won't be going there just to make up the numbers.

Early this week, Mrs Winfield, our fabulous teaching assistant and librarian, and I met with sales reps from book companies to purchase books for the children. It is really important that we keep replenishing our supply of children's books as every child at Ickford loves to read. We have also purchased more 'Big Boy' bean bags for the corridors which the children love to snuggle up with their friends in to read during break times. Mind you, I nearly got killed in the rush when I told the ladies in the office what I had put in the corridor and neglected to say they were bean bags!

Next week is Science week with, I believe, a focus on the theme of food. Mrs Honey is responsible for organising the week and, if the past is anything to go by, I am sure every child is going to gain a great deal from next week's lessons and the workshops that have been arranged. Mrs Honey works very hard in organising this and I know that this year has not been easy for her as she has had to make some last minute changes to the timetable but nevertheless, she assures me that everything is now 'good to go'.

Have a good weekend,

Mr Ronane

## Ickford News from the office

### Dates for your diary...

28 <sup>th</sup> January – 1 <sup>st</sup> February	Science Week
5 <sup>th</sup> February	Parents Evening
7 <sup>th</sup> February 9am	Class 2 Assembly
7 <sup>th</sup> February	Parents Evening
12 <sup>th</sup> February 7pm	Y5&6 Residential – Parent Meeting
14 <sup>th</sup> February 5-6.30pm	School Disco

### School Lottery

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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