

Ickford News

It has been much more of a pleasure to be at work this week despite having to take on some extra tasks. The opportunity to do some whole class teaching has been an enjoyable challenge and I can only hope (and pray) that the children in Class 3 have the same feeling!

One of the week's highlights has been the opportunity to observe the class teachers teaching Math lessons (Numeracy) and I was delighted with those lessons I saw and the high expectations that the teachers have of their own practice and how this manifests into positive learning experiences for the children. Each lesson was very different in content but the underlying similarity in every lesson was the passion and enthusiasm that each teacher and teaching assistant has for the well-being and development of every child.

As any teacher will tell you (I know you know some, "My friends a teacher and she says...") staff meetings can be the bane of one's life and as a Headteacher there is a certain pressure to try and make the meetings necessary and effective.

With this in mind one of our aims this year

is to streamline workload for teachers and to ensure everything that does take time has a positive impact on the children. Our meetings this half term are all focused on 'formative assessment' or, in other words, marking and how we can reduce workload as well as improving how the marking impacts on learning and progress.

This is a topic currently at the forefront of educational research and particularly important to the Department of Education as, in today's climate of many teachers leaving the profession, they try to ensure that teacher's time is used purposefully and in the best interests of children.

We have decided to trial a new way of marking which we hope will not only ensure accurate assessment but also engage each child in their own learning and individual development. When you come to parent evenings and look at your children's books, you will see less written teacher comments and hopefully more comments and evidence of understanding where to improve from the children.

Please bear with us as we implement what is a significant shift in mind-set and practice for us as I believe that not only will we see benefits for the children but also really important changes to the work life balance of the teachers.

Another highlight of my week has been the various netball training sessions taking place and in particular our first Wednesday evening session for past pupils as well as current Yr. 6 players. It was great to see girls now in Years 7 and 8 of various Secondary schools coming back to Ickford to play and train together. They laughed, joked, shared school stories and, as if they were still at Ickford, worked hard! Who knows? We may have planted the seed for a new club to emerge.

It's time to go and iron the checked shirt and polish the cowboy boots in preparation for Friday evening's PTA Barn Dance. (If you believe I have such footwear then you don't know me!) I have been assured that I will not be forced to 'dosey- doe' or have anyone 'Yee hawing' (I gave up trying to spell these) in my ear and that I can enjoy a drink listening to the dulcet tones of the maestro Mrs Shackleton on the fiddle.

The newsletter is out early this week so that the shy among you can still get tickets for the dance from the School Office or the PTA.

Yee haw!

Mr Ronane

Ickford News from the office

Dates for your diary...

| | |
|--|---|
| 27 th Sept 7.30pm | Netball Club for Y6 and above starts |
| 29 th Sept 7-10.30pm | PTA Barn Dance |
| 6 th October 2.30pm | Harvest Festival St Nicholas Church, Ickford |
| 17 th October 9am | Class 4 Assembly |
| 17 th October 4pm-7pm | Parents Evening |
| 19 th October 4-7pm | Parents Evening |
| 23 rd – 27 th October | Half Term |
| 31 st October | School Photos |

School Lottery

Last week's very much deserved winner of the school lottery was Richard Shackleton. He has made a promise that the money will not change him!

If you would like the chance to win a life changing sum of money, and support the school, please click on the link below and get signed up!

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/ickford-school>

