

Ickford News

A delayed and shamelessly celebratory newsletter this week which, as it appears we have readers from outside of our school community, may rankle some but nevertheless is absolutely justified.

What a week we have just experienced but by far the greatest achievement is the news that the SATs results for the children in Year 6 were once again superb and improved upon for the third year in succession.

The tables below give you an idea of how we performed in relation to the rest of Buckinghamshire and the rest of the UK. The percentages show the children achieving the expected standard or better.

Subject	School	Bucks	UK
Reading	100%	76%	71%
Writing	100%	76%	76%
Spelling & Grammar	100%	79%	77%
Maths	100%	75%	75%

The table is just a snapshot and I will ensure more detailed results are put on the website as soon as possible because the average scores for the children are even more impressive and show the depth of learning has increased this year.

Of course there are many children who play a part in each child's education and I can acknowledge that several of the current children in year 6 moved to Ickford after starting at other schools but, I have insider knowledge and I know exactly who adds the most value to the children at this stage in their education and I daresay that any parent of a Year 6 child does too. Ickford School has the best Year 6 teacher in the country and her intelligence, enthusiasm, passion, unwavering determination and belief in the children ensures that they are given every opportunity to shine. She deserves all of our gratitude.

Though I shall say more in the coming days to our leavers, it is important to share on record that the children in Year 6 have worked incredibly hard this year in every area and thoroughly deserve their academic success. They have been a class of high attendance and those who did not take being at Ickford for granted have reaped the rewards, well done.

There is, of course, sports news to report as well this week and, having had a particularly busy week competing, I am delighted to announce the following:

On Monday July 3rd our Athletics team retained the Aylesbury Vale District Athletics Winners title for the third consecutive year after amassing a huge points total that eclipsed the totals of the other 15 schools taking part. This year saw the return of field events and we had some outstanding performances in the shot putt and long jump which really set us up for what proved to be electrifying track events.

On Thursday July 6th we took a team to Waddesdon for our area Year 6 games an event that in past we have not considered possible to win due to the disadvantage of such a small year 6 cohort in comparison to the other schools in our group. Last year, despite our children suffered the humiliation of being teased by another school that they were, "Only good at Netball" which, as you can imagine, has been keeping me awake every night since! This year I decided to enter a team in every event by ignoring the fact that it was a year 6 games and taking a team made up From years 4, 5 and 6. Winning the Netball, Rugby, Hockey and Table

tennis and a third in the indoor Tennis plus points from Rounders and Football was enough to take the overall title and to silence a few critics, oh and to get some sleep. Special congratulations must go to William Basnett, Oliver Workman and Jonty Atkins who were also awarded most outstanding individual player awards on the day.

Then Friday July 7th arrived and the County Finals for the Netball. To get this far, the team already had to win the area competition back in October followed by a Regional competition in June and each one of these events means playing an average of 8 or 9 matches in a day against far bigger schools. To have won the Regional competition for the second consecutive year was a massive achievement and having lost out by one goal at the County level last year, I wanted to children to be relaxed and to look on anything we achieved as a bonus. It appears that they had different ideas and, in searing heat, against private and state schools from Milton Keynes and all over Bucks, the mighty Ickford played superb netball and defeated every other team to take the title of County

Champions.



With so many sports events this week it was difficult to keep up with everything and I must admit that the Open Evening on Thursday was a welcome respite Miss Vukomanovic took charge and organised a wonderful Art exhibition to the accompaniment of some music which altogether enriched the whole evening. Thank you to everyone who came and had a look around. I hope that you got the opportunity to see some of the children's work and to chat to some of the teachers.

One event I was sad to miss last week was the KS1 recorder assembly but I am reliably informed that it was excellent. I have no doubt that this was the first performance of many for the children and I hope that it was the start of an inspired journey to musical stardom and enjoyment for many of them.

At this point in the year, the feet are firmly to the pedal and the pace at Ickford

does not let up. The final two weeks are full of valuable learning and lots of additional activity so attendance is, as always absolutely paramount.

Tomorrow, every child must attend school in the PE kit as we will be organising Sports Day and we have also changed around PE lessons this week. Please ensure that every child has necessary sun protection this week but particularly on Monday and Wednesday when they will spend more time outside.

There are three major events this week, Sports Day, the Year 5 and 6 production of Alice in Wonderland and, on Friday Evening, the Oxfordshire Partnership Schools Athletics at Horspath Track. Parents are welcome at each one and, even if your child is not competing on Friday evening, I can recommend Horspath as a good evening out to come and cheer the team on. We are the reigning champions and, who knows, we may just be in the form to add another trophy to the cabinet.

Enjoy the sunshine whilst it lasts,

Mr Ronane