

# Ickford News

Sports took precedence this week when the Netball team took part in the first tournaments of the year and the Cross Country Team raced in Aylesbury on Saturday morning. Though we have been quite successful in the past in a variety of different sports, nothing is ever easy and the children always work very hard towards achieving their goals.

For example, this year's Netball squad have often chosen to forgo playtime in order to practise and I have been happy to support them in this. Indeed, even on Friday, having played two tournaments this week, they were knocking on my door before lunch to see if a practice session could take place and though I declined, they carried on without me and also turned up after school for the regular after school club session!

The first tournament of the week was the Area competition where we play against other Bucks schools in our Sports Partnership. Prior to Tuesday we had won this tournament for the past 5 years in succession so I recognised that the team felt the weight of expectation on their shoulders. It has been an unusual year in that only two of our current squad had played any netball before September so I am very proud of their achievements and of the fact that they won the tournament in spite of drawing the final match against Brill. Not conceding a goal in the pool games and not drawing meant that when points were counted back after a close final, Ickford were once again victorious. Nevertheless, we will meet Brill again in the Regional competition as both teams went through to the next round.

The second tournament was an Oxfordshire event played at Wheatley Park Secondary School against some of

the local Oxfordshire Primary Schools. It was the first netball competition held at Wheatley and I am very pleased that the standard of umpiring and the organisation of the event were really good.

We took a year 6 team and gave match time to some of our squad who did not play in the Waddesdon tournament but the strength in depth was such that we won every match without conceding a goal. We now have time to work on our areas of development before the next tournaments but, in the meantime, we shall try to test the squad against the local secondary schools if we can.

Fortunately, the weather on Saturday morning was ideal for cross-country running as we had entered a small team of 16 runners, captained by Evie Boardman in Class 4, in an event at Turnfurlong School in Aylesbury.

Overall there were 350 competitors from 18 schools and I was delighted that the organiser singled out Ickford for praise at the end and confided that, had we entered more runners in each race, we probably would have secured more team prizes. Thankfully, Mrs Vickers who gave up her free time to join us, collected our results which were as follows: One 1st place - Anna Kerry (Year 3 girls) Two 3rd places - Louis Parsons (Year 6 Boys) and Tiana Mose-Dixon (Year 3 girls) 6 other finishers in the top ten (Florence Wootten, Charlie Stow, Evie Boardman, Jake Fletton, Zach Stanfield and Harry Johnston). Year 6 Boys team winners and overall, 56% of our runners finished in the top ten. A good morning's work!

The quality of our sport in school and particularly Netball has enabled several of our past pupils to achieve continued success after leaving Ickford. Currently, we have several girls playing for their

secondary school teams and some representing either Oxfordshire or Buckinghamshire Counties or playing at Regional level and one of our 'stars of the past', Charlotte Basnett has, at 15, been playing for the U19 Oxfordshire hub of the Wasps professional, premiership netball club.

Unfortunately, due to going to a variety of secondary schools, our past pupils get split up and miss playing with their friends from Ickford so, in answer to this dilemma and with the help of a committee of parents, we now have our own Netball Club competing in league netball. We are called Ickford Iceni and we play in the Aylesbury Youth U16 league 2. The girls train with me at Lord Williams' Lower School and, so far, it has been going well. To date, we are undefeated and on November 22<sup>nd</sup> we face the other undefeated team in the league Bedgrove in a real, 'winner takes all' match.

The date for your diary next week is Friday November 8<sup>th</sup> when we will be serving coffee and cakes before an assembly to mark the centenary of the end of World War 1. Mme Basnett has also organised the Friday as a costume day for the children so that we remember the fallen of both Great Wars and the women and men who gave their lives. The sporting arena is often eulogised and compared to a 'battlefield' but, in my opinion, and I have played plenty of sport, there is nothing heroic about it in comparison to the experiences of those who have defended the values and freedoms that we all enjoy in this country.

Have a good weekend,

Mr Ronane

## Ickford NEWS from the office

### Dates for your diary...

5 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> November	Bikeability Training
9 <sup>th</sup> November 8.40am	World War 1 & 2 Dress up day and coffee morning
12 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> November	Bikeability Training
13 <sup>th</sup> November	Class 5 trip to Bletchley Park
15 <sup>th</sup> November 9am	Class 4 Assembly
11 <sup>th</sup> December 2-3pm	KS1 Nativity for whole school, grandparents and siblings
13 <sup>th</sup> December 6.30-7.30pm	KS1 Nativity (No pre-school aged children)
14 <sup>th</sup> December 9am	French Assembly
17 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch
19 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole School Visit to Pantomime

### PE Kits

A reminder that PE kit must be in school every day and all articles of clothing must be labelled with the correct child's name please.

### School Lottery Please sign up at:

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

