

The School Council Quarterly

January to March Edition

Welcome

We hope you have been enjoying the beginning of this new year; it has certainly been a busy few months.

Thank you for the positive feedback about our first edition of the *School Council Quarterly*.

Our aims for the newsletter will always be to keep you up to date with the activities the School Council is involved with and to let you know about any future plans & special ideas.



Well done you!

We need to say well done to you all. As you know we have been helping to raise money to support our school Library. Thanks to your generosity & that of your families we have now reached **£250**. This fantastic total comes from the **Nativity Raffles** and **Mrs Parmar's curry at the PTA Winter Fayre**. When we get to our £300 target it will all be added to the funds provided by the hard working PTA to help buy new books for everyone to enjoy.



SC@ fun facts about Ickleford School

Mrs Banbury our Year Two teacher has a rescued black and white cat with very long white whiskers. His name is Gus Banbury and he is shy but very affectionate. He has one more claw on each paw than other cats which make his paws look like hands.

School Council Raffle coming soon

After the Easter holiday the school council will be running a **raffle** to raise money for our trip to the Houses of Parliament ...more on that soon!



Gus Banbury a very special cat

See inside for our interview with Mr McKechnie



Things you have been thinking about...

Thank you to everyone who has taken a moment to write down an idea for our comments box. While we are not always able to put every idea into practice we promise that each one is read and considered. A few of the ideas have been intriguing but not the most suitable for our school such as 'a best granny competition' & 'a biscuits for everyone day'! We do appreciate your enthusiasm though. So many of your suggestions are incredibly thoughtful and we are working on ways of incorporating them into school life. Here are a few of your best ideas that we think could really improve our school:

- A **line of the week award** celebrating the class that lines up the best after play times. *An idea from lots of children including Jessica and Adam.*
- A **school pet** that could be cared for by everyone. *An idea from Joseph.*
- A **cooking club** where children could learn even more about food technology. *An idea from Rosina.*
- A **special bench** where friends could meet or where people could just sit quietly and talk/read at play times. *An idea from Jem.*
- Extra **play time resources** that could be used for games and activities. *An idea from Jayden.*

Some of these ideas will be quicker and easier to make a reality so watch this space.

Already we are happy to announce that:

- ✓ Our school is collecting the Sainsbury's active kids vouchers which will be used to buy the extra **play time and Golden Time resources** you have asked for.



Sainsbury's vouchers

- ✓ The PTA is hard at work refreshing the space outside the Year One and Reception classrooms. We hope it will include the **special bench** for meeting friends and quiet reading.
- ✓ Following your request for a '**best line**' award, a new reward is now being planned to celebrate the class that lives up to the challenge.
- ✓ And finally the teachers have been putting their minds together to see if we could look after a **new** pet in school!



Could a gold fish be joining our school soon?

Please keep your wonderful ideas coming and we will do our best to take them to Mrs Dury and the other members of staff.

A fresh look for our Quiet Area thanks to the PTA.



Our PTA is currently exploring ways of improving the outdoor area next to the Reception & Year One classes. It has been busy creating two design choices to enhance the space and make it a nicer place for all of the children in school to use.



The PTA asked the school council to look at the different plans and help decide which option was the best. After much deliberation – *which involved exploring the outdoor area and talking over the different design plans* - we took a vote & picked our favourite.



It was really tricky because there were so many features that we liked in each of the plans. So we then created a list of ideas for the PTA to help it devise the final proposal. We tried to think about everyone in school from the 4 four olds in Reception to the 11 year olds in Year Six. We hope our suggestions are going to be helpful because we are looking forward to using the completed playground very soon.

Tell us what you think about the new school website

Mrs Kitching our administrator has also been very active these past few months helping to put together a **new website** for the school. You can often see her on Tuesdays with a camera in hand taking photographs of all the different activities going on in the classes. Then just a few hours later they appear on the website so everyone can see what exciting things have been happening. Mrs Kitching is keen to find out what you and your families think of the website, so if you have a moment please log on and explore (we have). There is a comment slip below which you can fill in and return to the **school office** with your ideas...thank you in advance.



**Comment slip about the school website
For Mrs Kitching**

Please return to the **school office**.

Name.....

Comment:

Interview with Mr McKechnie

In each edition of the **SCQ** we try to interview people who are linked to Ickleford School. For this edition **Mr McKechnie** has kindly agreed to answer our questions.

We would like to say thank you to Mr McKechnie for giving up some of his time.

Cameron's question:

Why do you enjoy doing your job?

I enjoy my job at school because of the lovely children I get to work with and the fact that every day is different.

Abbie's question:

What do you enjoy reading? I really like reading the sports sections of newspapers because they keep me up to date with all the sports I am interested in like football and American football. The teams I support are Chelsea and the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Ruby's question:

What or who inspired you to become a Teaching Assistant? My older brother is a Teaching Assistant at Larwood School in Stevenage. He really enjoys his job and inspired me to give it a go too!

Everyone's question:

What do you enjoy about being a TA? I like supporting the children I look after because I get to see the progress they make both as people and through their school work. It is very rewarding to know that I have made a difference.

Adam's question:

What did you do before you became a Teaching Assistant? Before I became a Teaching Assistant I was a sports coach. I used to visit different primary schools and teach PE to the children. I also taught football in the evenings and at weekends to a range of age groups.

George's question:

Had you worked in schools before you came to Ickleford? Yes. I worked in several schools with children of different ages and different needs.

Some of the children had disabilities and required a lot of support.

Honey-Mae's question:

When you were little what was your favourite game? When I was a young boy I used to play football on the village green with my friends. We all used to stay outside until we were called in for our dinners.

Cameron's question:

When you were a small child what did you want to be when you grew up? As a child I really wanted to be a football player for my favourite team Chelsea! As an adult I now play football for two local teams. I play for the Stevenage Community Football Club on Saturdays and The Wanderers on Sundays. It keeps me busy.



Mr McKechnie

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Manners and Values Questionnaire

A few weeks ago the school council received a lovely letter from Mrs Orton asking if we could help her devise some questions for a survey about the school Values and also the Manners awards. We thought very hard about everything to do with celebrating our Values at school and came up with a long list of ideas for her. Mrs Orton is now looking through these and is putting the survey together. During the summer term Mrs Orton will be sending you a questionnaire to find out what you think too...so get those thinking caps on.

The puzzle pages

Here are a few fun activities to while away some time with!

A challenging school word search

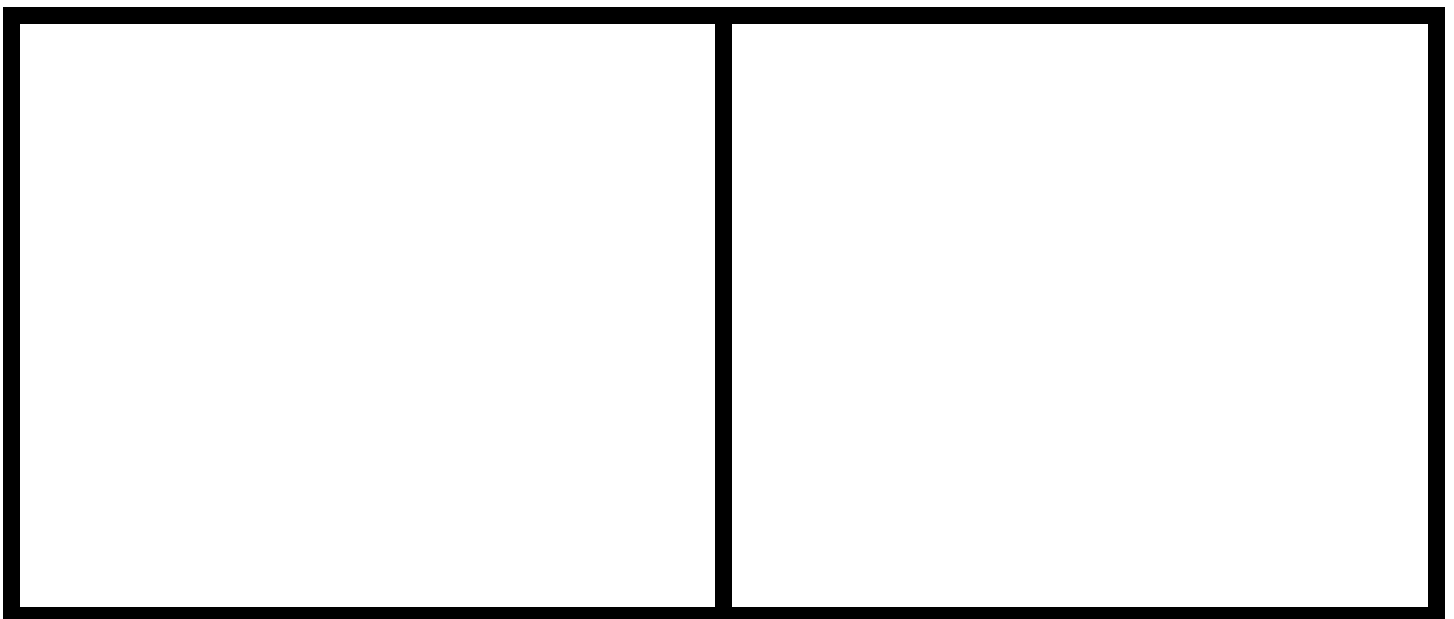
Can you find all the words?

G	c	l	a	s	s	r	o	o	m	s	F	M	p	s
a	s	p	o	r	t	s	g	E	h	t	l	r	e	c
M	r	M	c	K	e	c	h	n	i	e	c	s	n	h
r	R	r	a	c	v	b	N	g	m	a	k	P	c	o
s	d	s	x	t	q	e	t	l	u	c	l	a	i	o
D	f	B	r	a	h	s	D	i	f	h	e	r	l	l
u	g	a	u	s	i	e	s	s	a	e	f	m	s	d
r	h	n	l	d	s	z	m	h	s	r	o	a	l	i
y	j	b	e	f	t	x	M	a	d	s	r	r	z	n
q	K	u	r	g	o	C	r	m	t	f	d	h	s	n
e	L	r	k	H	r	v	s	t	i	i	g	j	d	e
T	p	y	l	j	y	b	K	y	a	S	c	k	f	r
V	a	l	u	e	s	n	i	u	p	e	n	s	g	h
H	a	p	a	r	t	a	n	d	d	e	s	i	g	n
l	e	a	r	n	i	n	g	o	k	j	h	g	f	s

Some of the words are hidden vertically, horizontally and even diagonally.

ickleford Mr McKechnie art and design Mrs Banbury mathematics English
 Mrs Dury teachers history classrooms Mrs King Mrs Parmar
 learning sports school dinner values pens pencils ruler


Spot the difference *Can you see any differences between our two illustrations by Elijah W-L*




Draw a circle around the things you notice.

The puzzle pages



 Here is a really creative challenge for all you talented artists!
Are you able to draw an illustration of our school?



 What about a quick Mathematics puzzle to get you thinking?

	+		=	17
-		+		-
	-	2	=	
=		=		=
2	+		=	16

 SCQ fun Ickleford School facts...

You know Mrs Parmar as one of our hard working Teaching Assistants but she is also a very talented cook who delights in creating wonderful curries and delicacies for the adults in the school to taste!

We will be in touch soon!

We hope you enjoyed reading this edition of the SCQ newsletter. We will try to keep you up to date with the things we are working on for you. For now, take every opportunity offered to you. We look forward to making your next edition of the **School Council Quarterly**.

Your School councillors

G	c	L	a	s	s	r	o	o	m	s	F	M	p	s
a	s	p	o	r	t	s	g	E	h	t	l	r	e	c
M	r	M	c	K	e	c	h	n	i	e	c	s	n	h
r	R	r	a	c	v	b	N	g	m	a	k	P	c	o
s	d	s	x	t	q	e	t	l	u	c	l	a	i	o
D	f	B	r	a	h	s	D	i	f	h	e	r	l	l
u	g	a	u	s	i	e	s	s	a	e	f	m	s	d
r	h	n	l	d	s	z	m	h	s	r	o	a	l	i
y	j	b	e	f	t	x	M	a	d	s	r	r	z	n
q	K	u	r	g	o	c	r	m	t	f	d	h	s	n
e	L	r	k	H	r	v	s	t	i	i	g	j	d	e
T	p	y	l	j	y	b	K	y	a	s	c	k	f	r
V	a	l	u	e	s	n	i	u	p	e	n	s	g	h
H	a	p	a	r	t	a	n	d	d	e	s	i	g	n
L	e	a	r	n	i	n	g	o	k	j	h	g	f	s

Questions for Mrs Dury

1. Why do you enjoy doing your job? Cameron
2. What do you enjoy reading? Abbie
3. What or who inspired you to become a Teaching Assistant? Ruby
4. What do you enjoy about being a TA?
5. What did you do before you became a Teaching Assistant? Adam
6. Had you worked in schools before you came to Ickleford? George
7. When you were little what was your favourite game? Honey-Mae
8. When you were a little child what did you want to be? Cameron