

# Ickford News

Eliza of Class 1 (yes, the same Eliza to whom I had to apologise via parent mail) came in to Breakfast Club this morning and confidently announced to me and others present, that she had seen the North Star. In fact, she has seen it above the school car park. An epiphany?

I loved this for several reasons. Firstly, I could make a newsletter reference to Sunday's feast of the epiphany when, in the Bible, it tells us the Three Wise Men, arrived in Bethlehem having followed the star. Secondly, I can make a newsletter link about light but mostly because I love the fact that Eliza was interested, informed and confident enough to come in and tell me. I imagine that someone, (Mum or Dad?) has been teaching Eliza about the North Star (Polaris) and taking time engaging her in conversation. If anyone wants to know a secret into helping their children succeed in school (or outside of school for that matter) that is it. Talk to them!

Talking to young children properly is the most valuable thing you can do to help them, particularly in the literacy curriculum. This may appear odd as literacy is the ability to read and write but I can assure you, children who develop a wide vocabulary which helps them to articulate their ideas and organise their thoughts are almost guaranteed to find reading and writing easier.

There was a time when, even if there was not much conversation in the home, children would still be engaged in conversation walking to and from school or perhaps strolling around on the weekly shop but even these opportunities to talk are gradually fading as the mobile phone continues to consume so much of our time. How many children do we see that

are being led along by an adult engaged in looking at a social media feed, sending messages or emails, wearing headphones or in conversation on the telephone?

Without wishing to sound righteous or dogmatic, I hope that everyone can see the benefits of spending time talking to their children. Whether it is about the North Star, how we spend our days, fantasy lands or football, proper conversation is invaluable. Talk to them in full sentences, ask the questions and answer theirs, share opinions and don't be afraid to correct their grammar! Trust me, they will be indebted to you.

My corny link to light is simply to let everyone know that this week we have possibly contributed to the future of the planet (a tiny, tiny bit) by having all of the lights in school changed to LED. I have been trying to get this work done for about two years now and finally we have managed to secure a way of funding the work through a scheme enabling us to balance the cost of new lighting with savings made through reducing our energy usage by approximately 50%. As the Three Wise Men may have cried, "Hallelujah!"

Hopefully, you have all had a chance to read the OFSTED report and will know that the inspection went very well. Our prize? Another inspection which I hope will confirm our status as an outstanding school. The future is bright (certainly brighter in real terms under my new LED lighting!) and I would like to wish everyone a happy, successful and healthy New Year.

Have a good weekend,

Mr Ronane

# Ickford News from the office

## Dates for your diary...

24 <sup>th</sup> January 9am	Ballet Assembly
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
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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