

Ickford News

A persistent dilemma for those who 'lead' (I use the term loosely) in education is that, whilst it may be easy to define teaching and therefore, identify it and judge it, it is not easy to define learning and very difficult to identify it. Learning is an abstract concept such as love and justice, we can plan for it and try to create an environment in which it can flourish, but we can never quite define exactly what it is because it is so difficult to see and its manifestations most often appear some time after the actual teaching has taken place.

I may be wrong of course. For example, it can be argued that, if we teach a child how to do a method of multiplication and then set them some calculations, they will either get them correct or incorrect, hence they have learned or they have not. However, that is too simplistic and maths is amongst a small group of subjects where we can teach and quantify whether methods have been learned or not (hence it is a core subject included in testing regimes) and, in the somewhat, 'limited' sphere of school education there are demands that everything must be learned for a particular reason or to achieve a pre-defined outcome.

I used the term 'lead in education' loosely because, as a school, we endure relentless scrutiny by numerous groups (Ofsted, DfE, politicians, other schools, parents, journalists) who then form a judgement and for the most part, many of those who make judgements have never worked in our school or walked in the shoes of the staff. In fact, I am even suspicious of my role as Headteacher because I am expected to lead on teaching and learning and yet, I am still learning and still developing myself because I believe that

learning is a process rather than just a set instance or experience and I can align with the view of "education as a process of living and not a preparation for future living." (Dewey 1897)

Of course, there is learning we can plan for and measure (I am not suddenly going all wishy washy on you) but so much of what we do is not about planning and defining outcomes. Our values are key; kindness, honesty, respect and determination because these are fundamental in the lives of the children now and beyond their days here. I read with delight the Golden book each week and the comments about children being caring, well mannered, helpful, articulate, confident in addition to those celebrating academic prowess and it makes me happy.

Creating a successful learning environment is my role and whilst some of it means ensuring the teachers have the best of equipment and the children are safe and comfortable, much of it is in creating an ethos where learning is valued, mistakes are inevitable and being kind pervades all else.

The picture on the next page shows how happy the children made a man feel this week. Two classes went along to the village hall, taking a balloon and a card, and sang Happy Birthday to Ron who was celebrating 100 years of living and, in my book, learning. Some may have known Ron but my guess is most didn't, nevertheless, they shared in Ron's happiness and they made him feel special. Thank you, Ron, for giving the children the opportunity to learn, right there, right then, no assessment, no determined outcomes. Mr Ronane



**This Week's Celebration Assembly
Hall of Fame:**

Bella Hawkins

Jacob Dungee

Music Award:

Edie Turner

Jude Barnes

Zak Flood

Sophie Vorotyntsova

Nathaniel Wakelin

PE Award:

Ella Rose Cantwell-Wilkinson

Oliver Aspden

Headteachers Award:

Elsie Thomas

Charlie Kendall

Asees Samrai

Percy Jenkins

Gabriel Walker

News from the Office

Dates for your diary...

19 th May	Outdoor Learning
20 th May	French Cafe
23 rd – 27 th May	Science Week
24 th May	Think Tank
30 th May	Half Term
24 th June	Key Stage 2 Summer Concert
29 th June	Secondary Transfer Meeting -Year 5
8 th July	Summer Fayre
14 th July	Sports Day - Horspath
18 th July	School Play Class 4 and 5
19 th July	School Play Class 4 and 5
20 th July	Final Celebration Assembly
21 st July	Leavers' Assembly
21 st July	Last Day of Term

School Lottery

A winner within school every week!

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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