**Building Learning Power at Ilsington CE Primary School**

At Ilsington we are exploring ways in which we can develop and continuously improve our practice to ensure that our children develop as active, empowered learners.

At present we are focused on using the Building Learning Power (BLP) approach to supporting the children’s ability to understand and to discuss their own thought processes. We want our pupils to be able to talk about how they think and how they learn and to reflect on what works for them.

This approach to *visible learning* is informed by the research and writing of Professor John Hattie. At Ilsington we have introduced four characters to visually represent the four characteristics of effective learning and children across the school are able to use them to discuss how they are learning. For example, they can refer to the *ant* as an example of working with Reciprocity and are learning the benefits of working together effectively.

**Teaching Metacognitive Skills** Metacognitive strategies **empower students to think about their own thinking**. This awareness of the learning process enhances their control over their own learning. It also enhances personal capacity for self-regulation and managing one's own motivation for learning. (J. Hattie on Visible Learning).

Each week our senior teacher, Mrs Laura Billington leads an assembly focusing on an aspect of BLP, such as being ready to learn or managing distractions. The children are encouraged to consider the week’s BLP focus and to verbalise their understanding of their own learning in class.