

# Building Learning Power

*'A guide to BLP in the Foundation Stage'.*

Dear Parents and Carers,

During your child's time at Lipson Vale, it is highly likely that they will come home and say one of the following:

"My teacher told me that I concentrated like Shep"

"I listened like Ernie the Elephant today"

"My friends and I collaborated like Betty the Bee at playtime"

"When I was writing, I persevered like Percy"

These statements relate to an initiative used in many schools, including Lipson Vale, called 'BLP' or Building Learning Power. This approach to learning is proven to help children become better learners through the development of learning habits in an attempt to create life long learners that are resilient and resourceful.

Here at Lipson Vale, we have developed a set of animal characters that promote the different skills that are essential to learning. In total the school has seventeen characters but in the Foundation year we concentrate on four that we think are age appropriate.

They are:

Shep the concentrating Sheepdog.

Ernie the empathetic Elephant.

Percy the persevering Penguin

Betty the collaborative Bee.

Although the terminology appears very 'grown up' for this age group, you will be delighted at how quickly and easily the children take to it. The language becomes part of our everyday routine within the foundation department but it will also come in useful at home. It takes real perseverance and concentration for a four year old to get themselves dressed and ready for school in the morning and sharing toys with siblings takes a good degree of empathy and collaboration!

If you would like to read further on this topic please contact the school or Google 'Guy Claxton, Building Learning Power'.

Best wishes from Mr Whittaker and the Foundation Team

**Together we are inspiring a community with a bright future.**

*Resilience, Collaboration, Responsibility, Bravery, Communication, Self-belief*