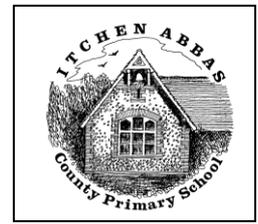


Itchen Abbas Primary School Newsletter

School Lane
Itchen Abbas
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21st September 2018

Newsletter No. 2



Email: admin@itchenabbas.org.uk



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Dear Parents

School Council

Congratulations to our new School Councillors. The following children made a speech to their class and were voted by their peers to be their representatives on the School Council. This year, Mrs Primmer will chair our School Council. The first task we have commissioned school council to review is our systems for rewards and sanctions. We would like them to consider which systems currently work and are fair and whether there are different systems they would prefer. We look forward to hearing the children's views via school council.

This year's school counsellors are:

Lewin and Ellie

Maxim and Lily M

Jacob and Ben

Connie and Bo



Growth Mindset

At the start of the academic year, we would like to tell our new parents about some of the systems we have in place to support and encourage our children.

We strongly believe in the philosophy of Growth Mindset – praising the process rather than the result. In its simplest terms, this means that *how* we talk to children, the *language* we use and the *praise* we give, can have a huge impact on the development of ability and talent.

We focus on growth mindset because mindset is the belief you hold about yourself. Is your ability, talents or basic personality set in stone or are they things you can cultivate throughout your life?

People with a fixed mindset:

- believe they have a certain amount of ability and talent and nothing can change that
- so people in this mindset worry about their traits and how adequate they are
- believe they have something to prove to themselves and others

People with a fixed mindset believe that they:

- need to look 'smart' in every situation
- worry about how they look to others – will they look smart or dumb?
- are a failure if they do not succeed in something
- avoid challenges, get defensive or give up easily
- think effort won't change anything
- ignore constructive criticism
- feel threatened by others success – compares themselves to others

People with a growth mindset:

- see their qualities as things that can be developed through their dedication and effort
- understand that being brainy or talented is just the starting point for hard work
- understand that no one has ever accomplished great things without years of passionate practice and learning

People with a growth mindset:

- will stretch themselves, take risks and learn. Bring on the challenges!
- ask themselves will this allow me to grow? Will it help me overcome my challenges?
- think I failed so I will try harder next time

- embraces challenges – persists in the face of setbacks
- understands implicitly that growth and learning takes effort
- learns from criticisms. How can I improve?
- finds lessons and inspiration in other people's success
- reach ever higher levels of achievement

A fixed mindset in school means:

- children who are scared to fail
- children who will not push themselves
- children who can not take constructive criticism
- children who give up easily when things are hard
- children who compare themselves to others – know their 'rank' in the class
- children who avoid things they find hard
- children who make excuses when things go wrong – It can't be their fault
- get their sense of achievement from the final outcome



We work hard in school to develop a growth mindset in all our pupils. We do this in many ways including:

- praising the process not the end product
 - You must feel very proud, you worked so hard on this!
 - You found this hard but you persevered, well done!
 - This isn't challenging you much, let's make it harder!
 - I know you felt like giving up, but you didn't and that is excellent!
- don't label – you are so clever, naughty, a natural....
- celebrate mistakes as learning and progress!
- there are no failures, just a step towards success
- constructive feedback – how to do it better
- high expectations for effort and perseverance
- teaching how the brain works and how we learn
- celebrating the power of yet – you have not got it YET (on other words, you will get there with perseverance)

At home to help your child develop a growth mindset you can:

- remember the power of yet!
- praise the process, the effort and determination they showed
- praise how hard they worked
- remind them that practice will strengthen their neural pathways
- help children to take responsibility for their own learning and progress
- daily learning discussions
- encourage risk taking and learning from mistakes

If you would like to read more about Growth Mindset, watch the Ted Talk 'The Power of Believing that You Can Improve' by Carol Dweck which can be found through an internet search or read her book, 'Mindset, How You Can Fulfil Your Potential'

or watch our Growth Mindset presentation on our website.

<http://www.itchenabbasprimary.co.uk/page/?title=Our+Values+and+Ethos&pid=11>

There are many other resources which can also be found on the internet.

We strongly believe in the power of growth mindset and it is an integral part of the way we teach, behave in school and the way we encourage our children to learn. We expect all adults in school to model growth mindset and we see the difference this makes to our children.

Our Current Reward Systems

Stars Cards

Stars are given by adults within the class when the children have produced good work. This follows our growth mindset, the children need to demonstrate that they have persevered and tried their best in order to achieve a star. The children earn certificates for their achievements which are given out in Friday Celebration Assembly.

- 20 – bronze award
- 40 – silver award
- 60 – gold award

When a child achieves their gold award, a parent is invited to join us for our Celebration Assembly. This year we decided to continue the star awards from last year rather than starting from zero stars.

Golden Fish

These are awarded by adults within the school to any child they see using our Learning Values in a way that is exceptional. These are awarded during Friday Celebration Assembly and the children put them in the 'fish tank' on my office window. Every half term, the tank is emptied and the children take their fish home to share with parents.

Team Tokens

These are awarded by adults within the school to any child they see demonstrating good behaviour and respectfulness and for following our Rainbow Rules around the school. These tokens are added up and at the end of each term the winning team receives a small treat.

Wow Letters

Teachers will give the children a Wow Letter to take home and show their parents when they have done some truly fantastic learning – something they have had to really persevere at.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Aimée Dear', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Aimée Dear