

Newsletter 25

Friday 23rd March 2018

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Growth Mindset and Resilience



This week in school we have been focusing on the theory of growth mindset and how it is key to helping children succeed. The children have been learning that intelligence and abilities are not fixed and can be developed in everyone through effort, persistence, trying different strategies or new approaches and, most importantly, learning from mistakes. By developing a growth mindset we can become more resilient, handle inevitable setbacks and achieve our goals through hard work.

BMX Bikes Build Resilience

Mike Mullen is a champion BMX biker who now visits schools to show children that they can achieve amazing feats by developing the key skill of resilience. By facing some incredible challenges Mike has learnt to find courage, become independent, resourceful and resilient. The whole school enjoyed Mike's assembly which was full of stunts and inspirational messages. Mike even managed to teach Mr Bowyer to carry out one of his tricks to prove that if you really want something and persevere then anything is possible.

The Year 5 children then spent the rest of the day working with Mike learning how to carry out some basic tricks, but most importantly learning how self-belief can help us to achieve anything. It was truly inspirational to see the children's initial nervousness turn to sheer delight, when they managed to pull off some really impressive tricks and stunts. Every single child left the workshop feeling truly inspired having been pushed out of their comfort zone.



Dance Share



It has been a very busy few weeks for Year 5 as, in addition to rehearsing for their forthcoming production, they also took part in the annual dance share event at Comberton Village College. The children worked very hard for the whole term to choreograph and develop their dance on the important theme of anti-bullying. The dance share is always an exciting event as it gives children the opportunity to see a range of performances by children of all ages and abilities right up to the GCSE dance students at the village college. Despite their initial reservations the children found it an inspirational event.

It's a Gas

This week began with a fantastic trip to Cambridge for Year 5. The children were invited to attend a chemistry lecture entitled, 'It's a gas!' at Cambridge University. The children were treated to a fantastic display of fire and explosions as they learnt about various chemical reactions. As one of the children exclaimed, "It was amazing. You could actually feel the heat on your face!".

Afterwards the children walked around Cambridge looking at examples of Tudor architecture. Despite the cold they spent time at Kings College, observing and sketching the architecture. We are very proud of the children as members of the public stopped to compliment them on their beautiful artwork and wonderful manners.



Sentence Starters

Ask your Reception child to subtract a single digit number from another.

Ask your Year 1 child to name some of the features of a castle.

Ask your Year 2 child to tell you a riddle about an animal found in the Amazon rain forest.

Ask your Year 3 child to explain how to measure in centimetres and millimetres.

Ask your Year 4 child to explain the purpose of an explanation text and when you might read one.

Ask your Year 5 child why it is so important that the air doesn't contain too much oxygen (think about what happened to sausage man).

Ask your Year 6 child to explain how Shackleton and his crew needed resilience to survive their expedition to Antarctica.

Head Teacher Roll of Honour

During the week I have been looking out for those children who have shown great resilience and are actively developing a growth mindset to help themselves grow and improve.

Alisha in Delphinus Class—Alisha personifies growth mindset. She doesn't let difficulties hold her back from her desire to be the best writer she can be, with the result that she is producing some amazing pieces of descriptive writing.

Ricky in Phoenix Class—Ricky's choreography of the Yeti dance showed us all what a perfectionist he is and how hard he has worked to ensure that his group's part of the Year 5 production is a success.

Montay in Aquila Class—Montay was a great role model in the Year 4 team building exercises this week. He didn't give up when things were difficult and helped to pull his team together to find the best solutions.

Caitlin in Indigo Class—Caitlin exudes resilience. She doesn't let anything hold her back and faces every challenge with determination and her radiant smile. Caitlin is truly inspirational.

Year 4 Team Building Day

We all know how important team work is as adults but this is something which children have to learn and the development of these vital skills is an important part of the work we do at primary school. This week Year 4 had the opportunity to hone their skills further when they participated in a day of team building tasks and exercises with Mrs Pashley from the Cambridge Sports Partnership. Everyone enjoyed the



tasks which helped to develop our listening and collaborative working skills.

Pocket Toys—No Slime Please

Children are still enjoying bringing their own pocket toys to school to play with during their break times. However, over the past couple of weeks we have noticed a lot of 'slime' creeping into pockets. This is quite messy and we have had a number of incidents where it has become matted into children's hair. Please can you make sure that your child is not bringing slime into school and that their pocket toy is appropriate and fits easily into their pocket. Children bring their pocket toys to school at their own risk so please do not bring toys which are very precious or of great significance to your child. School cannot take responsibility for any toys that are lost or damaged.



Try joining up the letters when practising spellings.

Research has shown that children who join up their writing will learn their spellings more quickly. This is because it helps children to form a pattern which then becomes embedded. You can see this in the flow of writing suffixes such as 'ough' at the end of a word.

Forthcoming Dates

w/c 26th March —International Week

27th March 2pm—Year 5 performance

27th March 4pm—Parent Consultation Evening

28th March 6pm—Year 5 performance

29th March—last day of Spring Term

30th March—EASTER HOLIDAYS begin

16th April—Children Return to school

18th April—PGL Information evening

19th April—Vision screening

24th April—Green Class visit to Sedgwick Museum

25th April—Y1 Multi-skills festival

26th April— Blue Class visit to Sedgwick Museum

1st May—Year 2 Tennis festival

3rd May—County Maths Challenge

4th May—Columba Class assembly

11th May—Phoenix Class assembly

14th—17th May—SATs week

22nd May—Reception performance

23rd May—Reception performance

25th May—last day of half term



Summer Fete— Saturday 23rd June 2018 — Help Wanted!

We are happy to confirm the date of this year's Monkfield Park Summer Fete will be **Saturday 23rd June 2018.**

If you would like to get involved in the planning or to help out on the day then please do get in touch either through our Facebook page or via email to friendsofmonkfield-park@gmail.com. With lots to do beforehand and on the day all help would be greatly appreciated.



Bag2School Collection

Bag2School will be collecting on 4th May 2018. Bags will be sent home via book bags the first week back after Easter.

It's a great chance to have a good Spring Clean over Easter. They accept any of the following 'good quality' items for RE-USE — Men's, Ladies' and Children's clothing, Paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around), Handbags, Hats, Bags, Scarves and ties, Jewellery, Lingerie, Socks, Belts, Soft toys, Household linen, Curtains, Towels, Bedding (bed sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers).



Friends 'Meet & Greet' Coffee Morning

We will be holding a 'Meet & Greet' Coffee Morning on **Friday 27th April** from **9am-10am in the Main Hall** and would love to see you there. It is a chance to see what we have planned for the coming months and also for you to let us know any ideas you have for future fundraising. Younger children are more than welcome so make a note of the date and if you have time please do pop in!



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