



# Learning Update – Spring 1 2016

## Growth Mindset

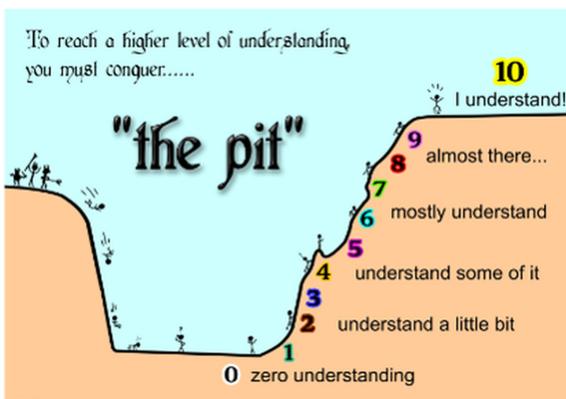
We are becoming more and more comfortable with the concept of growth mindset in school. Children talk very confidently about the way they learn and what they can do for themselves. Learners are noticeably more resilient and what we are seeing certainly goes a long way to prove that achieving your goals is as much about attitude as aptitude. Our school values underpin what happens in lessons and around the school. Children understand the values and are able to explain how they demonstrate these in their lives.

More details about growth mindset can be found in the September 2014 edition of Learning Update (school website).

## The Learning Pit

Growth mindset is about learners taking risks and trying new approaches, rather than just sticking to what they know. Real learning happens when we have to think hard about a problem, grappling with it to find a solution.

Sometimes, we find it hard to admit that we don't know what to do – we feel uncomfortable and this feeling can drastically affect our capability to think, especially to think creatively. James Nottingham's Learning Pit was devised



to help learners accept these feelings, to see them as normal, and even to embrace them so that they can focus on what they need to do to get out of the pit.

The Learning Pit is based on the following principles:

1. We are generally more interested in learning when we, and those around us, are curious and willing to express uncertainty.
2. We are all fallible.
3. Learning is enhanced by guided enquiry.
4. High quality learning comes from making connections and understanding relationships.
5. The transfer of skills, knowledge and understanding is very important to learning.
6. Learners should aim to be thoughtful, reflective, supportive and reasonable.
7. Learning how to learn is at least as important as finding an answer.

(Adapted from The Learning Pit, Nottingham J)

The Learning Pit can be used in a number of ways. Initially we are using this concept to encourage learners to see challenge as a positive thing. They accept that they are 'in the Learning Pit' and share how they feel. They then focus on getting out of the pit, using a range of strategies to accomplish this.

Children at Wendover Juniors are already talking positively about the Learning Pit and this is something that we will be developing further this year.

Let your children tell you about the Learning Pit.