



23th September 2016

Growth Mindset Project

Your children have been learning about their amazing brains and about the significant difference adopting a 'growth mindset' can make to their learning and achievements be they academic, sporting or otherwise.

Children from Year 2 upwards have been learning what a mindset is, what is meant by a growth and a fixed mindset and discovering from an initial baseline self-assessment what their own current mindset tends to be towards different things.

They have studied the brain, how it learns and how it can grow in skill, speed, agility and ability through the use of a positive 'can-do' attitude, hard work, effort and regular practise. Children have been introduced to metacognition (learning how to learn) and some strategies such as the Learning Target Board and Sunflowers, which will help them identify their leaning zones and activate them. Teachers have used video clips, life-stories, scientific evidence and a wide range of games and activities with children to show them that intelligence and ability is not fixed but is something which can be grown and developed.

All staff received training during our recent professional development day undertaking a mindset challenge to assess their own mindsets before starting the training (just like the children did). We found, as did the children, that we all have a mix of growth and fixed mindsets inside us, so as individuals we have challenged ourselves to develop a growth mindset in the areas in which we were fixed. In the same way we will challenge the children too. One way we will do this is by adopting the power of '**...yet!**'. Every time any of us think or say out loud 'I can't', we will think to ourselves or say to each other '**...yet! You can't...yet!**'

Ruby class are also participating in our growth mindset challenge but are following an adapted programme which, over the next few weeks will contain most of the elements the older children cover but at a more accessible level.

Our aim is to adopt a growth mindset approach in school and embed it so it becomes second nature to us all. The children have been fascinated by it and seem to be taking a lot of the key messages on board and using them already.

If you want to know more about this exciting and powerful whole-school self-improvement project, please see the attached information and every time you hear '**...but I can't do it!**', please help by adding a decisive '**...yet!**'!

Thank you!

European Languages Celebration Day

Thank you to everyone who was able to come join us for our annual continental breakfast. European Day of Languages, established by the Council of Europe, calls upon teachers everywhere to fuel enthusiasm for language learning by highlighting Europe's multilingual heritage as well as the diversity of languages spoken worldwide. It's also an ideal opportunity to get children interested in languages.

We decided to focus our day on the Arabic language this year as suggested by the Council. A report entitled '**Languages for the Future**' published by the British Council, ranked Arabic as the second most vital language to the UK over the next twenty years. Arabic is spoken by more than 300 million people so a knowledge of Arabic among people in the UK helps to create a deeper mutual understanding between our communities and those in the Arab world.

The Arab world is a fascinating, diverse geographical region with a rich culture and history. The children enjoyed a day of activities including learning to count to ten in Arabic, looking at and making intricate geometric mosaic patterns, reading some Arabic fables, listening to traditional music, pronouncing some Arabic greetings, using atlases and maps to locate Arab countries and flags, watching film clips of key Arab famous and historical places, and making some traditional Arab recipes.

At the end of the day the children gathered in the hall to share what they had learned and made and Mrs Burrows and Mrs Chubbock were thanked profusely in Arabic for their hard work in making it all happen for us!

Birthday treats

We know that some parents and carers like to celebrate their child's birthday by bringing a little treat to school for their child's classmates to enjoy. Whilst we are happy for you to do this if you wish to (most families don't so there's no pressure!), we would ask that this is something that is given out by you and your child on the playground after school. Some of our children have allergies and intolerances too so please bare this in mind. If you are bringing a little treat, please let the teacher know so that she can tell the class to come and find you on the playground at the end of the day along with their parent/carer if they are in Y2 or below.

Summer Reading Challenge

We have been congratulated by the local library for the high numbers of children participating in the Summer Reading Challenge. A quarter of the school took part and no other school locally came near this percentage. What an achievement! Thank you parents and carers for helping this to become possible.

DIARY DATES

September

Mon 26th – Sapphires Long Stratton afternoon Library Visit

Thurs 29th – Long Stratton high School's Open Evening

Fri 30th – School visit & talk from Marsha Parker from the Norwich Jewish Centre about Judaism

October

Mon 3rd – Sapphires visit to Time & Tide Museum for Stone-Age & Bronze-Age study

Thurs 6th – Read Write Inc Presentations (how we teach reading) at 2pm & 6.30pm in the school hall

Fri 7th – Bake-Off cake decorating competition run by FoFS – details to follow.

Fri 14th – Harvest Festival in St. Peter's at 2.15pm

Mon 17th – KS2 Cathedral Visit Day

Tues 18th Parent consultations

Thurs – Parent consultations

Fri 21st – *Break for half-term*

Mon 31st – return to school

November

Fri 25th – Christmas Fayre

December

Fri 16th – Christmas Service in St. Peter's at 2pm – *Break up for Christmas holiday*

January

Weds 4th – staff training day

Thurs 5th – children return to school