Dear Parents, Carers and Children

This week our teachers, pupils and their families have embarked upon a new chapter in our Digital Learning journey. We have enjoyed reconnecting with each other in the Google Classrooms and getting started with the new Learning Grids. We thought that this would be a good time for us to share some information with you about what we call a **Growth Mindset.** In this Newsletter we will explain what this means and share ways that we can continue to support and encourage this at home.

What is a Growth Mindset?

At Mauricewood we work with the children to help them to think with a "Growth Mindset" . You may have seen regular updates about this on the School App called "Ask Me About My Day". We want the pupils to learn to use different skills and develop attributes that will help them to be successful lifelong learners who have a positive attitude to their learning. Here are some of the qualities that we encourage in all of our learners:

- Remembers that effort and practise will lead to success, "practise makes perfect!"
- Persists when a task is tricky and does not give up
- Remembers that it is ok to struggle a bit with a task that is difficult as this is often when new learning takes place
- Takes on challenges
- Knows what to do when stuck, e.g. try a different strategy; leave it for a while then come back to it; ask a family member/sibling to explain it in a different way; work through it with the help of an adult; look at an example that someone has already done...
- Views mistakes as an opportunity to learn more and learns from their mistakes
- Shows what they are learning in different ways e.g. talk about it; draw; explain; demonstrate; act it out
- Talks about their feelings as they learn

How can I help develop a Growth Mindset when learning at home?

How we talk to our children about learning is important. Here are some phrases that we have found helpful:

- You can learn how to do this
- Let's read this book/ complete this task together so we can learn more about...
- Can you talk to me about / show me what you are learning?
- You haven't learned that just yet
- Let's learn something new together

- Thank you for asking that question
- What do you want to practise/ get better at today?
- You have just learned to………...
- How can we solve this problem?
- Even when it got hard you didn't give up. You persevered!
- I can see you worked hard on that
- I can see you made a mistake, let's see what we can learn from that
- I can see you learned from your mistake and tried something different
- Let's think about what Learning power character might help here (see the school website)

Helpful Hints:

Even as adults we are still learning and it is just as important for adults to demonstrate a Growth Mindset as it is for children. You may wish to share with your child examples of a time when you have had to use a Growth Mindset e.g. when learning to drive a car or completing a task at work that you found difficult. Talk about how you felt and what you did to overcome this.

Learning occurs in all aspects of life not just in the classroom. Having a Growth Mindset can help with other learning such as how to ride a bike or tie shoelaces.

Finally, there will be times when it can feel difficult to think with a Growth Mindset. If your child is finding something particularly difficult or is upset, it is ok to take a break from it and try something else such as reading a book, going for a walk or just having a rest!

Some useful resources / links to use if you would like to find out more about Growth Mindset:

- Look on the School website for a copy of our learning power characters. Remember that there is one for younger children and one for older children.
- For younger children you could share the story "Giraffes Can't Dance". This is available as an audio book on www.vooks.com and tells the story of a giraffe who did not give up.
- https://www.mindsetworks.com/parents/growth-mindset-parenting

We hope that you found this helpful and remember to enjoy your learning.

The Mauricewood Team