



Gooderstone Church of England Primary Academy

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Thursday 5th September 2024

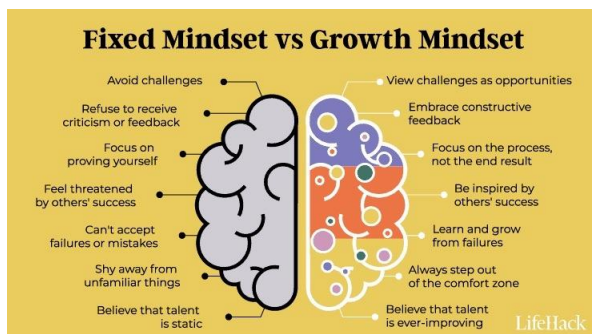
New School Year 24/25

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the New School Year at Gooderstone, I hope you have all had a wonderful Summer and are ready for an exciting year ahead. It was lovely to see all the smiling faces on the playground this morning as the children came in to school. I have really enjoyed leading assembly this morning, popping in and out of classrooms and hearing all about people's Summer holidays.

Just to inform you all that the interviews for the year 3/4 role will be taking place on Monday morning and we will let you know the outcome by the end of next week. In the meantime, I want to say a big thank you to both Mrs Cross and Miss Brown for filling in while we find the right candidate. We will also be putting out an advert for a cleaner due to Mrs Watson stepping down at the end of the summer term. If you know anyone who is looking for a cleaning role for 2.5 hours a day we would love to hear from them.

As always, we have lots of exciting things planned throughout the school year. We will continue our work with the children on looking at how our brain works and why we do the things we do. This half term we will focus lots on developing a growth mindset and avoiding a fixed mindset. With a growth mindset people believe that their abilities can be developed and improved over time, while those with a fixed mindset believe that their abilities are innate and cannot be changed. Research has shown that individuals with a growth mindset tend to be more resilient, persistent, and motivated.



Our assembly this morning was about how we can train ourselves to think positively, be confident to try new things and to not give up when things get hard. Our Mantras at Mundford are based on 'The Power of Yet' and 'Practice makes Progress.' Adding yet to the end of a sentence can change its

meaning and our mindset very quickly- 'I can't ride my bike- **YET.**' 'I can't write my name- **YET.**'

Practice makes progress is the understanding that perfect does not exist and the joy of learning anything new is in the journey, not the end product. Learning new things can often be hard, full of set-backs and requires resilience. We tell the children often that mistakes are all part of the journey and the best way to learn. If things go wrong, we encourage them not to give up and continue to practice because:



- Practice makes progress
- Practice makes things easier
- Practice gets you to your goals faster
- Practice promotes fluency

We explain that often:

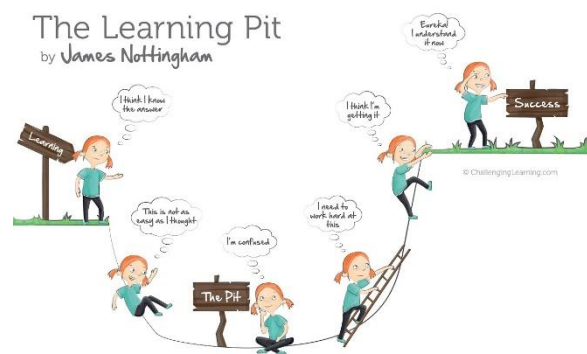
- Practice is hard.
- Practice is slow.
- Practice can be monotonous.

But practice is also the fastest, surest route to progress.

Every single time they practice, they get better. They strengthen the new neural pathways they're trying to build and with that practice, they're one step closer to their goal.

The Learning Pit

You may remember me writing about the Learning Pit in one of last year's letters. Each class had established one as part of our mindset work. This will be renewed this week in the children's new classes. Below is some information on the learning pit.



The Learning Pit theory was developed by James Nottingham, a former teacher, and school principal. The theory suggests that learning is like a journey, and students often encounter challenges or obstacles that can make them feel stuck or frustrated. Nottingham visualizes this journey as a pit, and students who are struggling with a difficult task are said to be "in the pit."

Being in the pit is a natural part of the learning process. It's where students engage in deep thinking, critical reflection, and problem-solving. However, it's important to note that students can get stuck in the pit and feel overwhelmed, discouraged, or even give up on the task, this is where our work on growth mindsets and resilience comes in. When students understand that getting stuck in the pit is a normal part of the learning process, they are more likely to persevere, learn from their mistakes, and take risks, instead of getting frustrated and giving up.

Each half term I will write to you with the new theme we are looking at with the children. Learning about why we think and do the things we do is a really good way to develop ourselves as learners and well-rounded people.

Information and communication

We communicate with you in a variety of different ways; through our weekly newsletters, class newsletters, texts and emails. Please ensure you check these for information on clubs, P.E days, upcoming events, dates for your dairies and much more. Although we always try to plan well in advance for things, life is never completely smooth and sometimes we have to send out last minute information so please be sure to check all coms regularly.

It is our belief that school and home must work closely together to ensure that children have the best learning experiences. Communication between both parties is key to a successful home-school relationship. Please ensure that if you have a concern about your child that you come and talk to us, don't let a small worry become a big problem.

Finally, we are super excited about the year ahead and are looking forward to welcoming a school year of exciting opportunities.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mrs Godbold', written over a horizontal line.

Mrs Godbold