

TEACHING AND LEARNING GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

Welcome to our monthly Learning Newsletter. These newsletters look to help you to implement tried and tested learning strategies at home, in order to benefit your child and further enhance their educational experiences in the long term.

Schemata

We're further developing our own and pupils' understanding of what a 'schema' is at the moment.

Simply put, schema theory states that all knowledge is organised into units. Within these units of knowledge, or schemata, is stored information. A schema, then, is a generalised description or a conceptual system for understanding knowledge - how knowledge is represented and how it is used.

Another way of thinking about it is that schemata are like the collection of files we'd store in our mental filing cabinet and we can reference them and cross reference them as our knowledge and experience increases.

We're making schema verbally all the time. For instance, when you see something and say "Oh, when I looked at that image it reminded me of" and you go into your bank of knowledge and experience and reference something you've seen, done, written about, etc.

We're aiming to exploit and harness pupils' ability to do that as a strategy in lessons as we go into the new academic year and will be asking pupils to use a variety of ways of presenting schema to help them revisit learning and make connections between what they've learnt in one subject and what they may have learnt in others or through their own experiences out of school. This is a useful revision and understanding tool and helps pupils make more sense of the world; rather than just seeing knowledge as subject based, they can see the 'bigger picture' so to speak.



Character & Culture

We've enhanced our delivery of character and culture sessions recently and pupils now have three twenty minute PM Prep sessions on topics that aim to help pupils develop these aspects.

The sessions are built around skills in **Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative and Communication** (LORIC).

As parents we invite you to be part of their unique journey; encourage your child to talk to you regularly about their progress and achievements with the LORIC attributes. As a school we reward pupils regularly for logging the activities in these essential life skills.

To encourage these skills at home you could:

- Hand over some decision making to your child
- Encourage team activity
- Reward optimistic thinking or improved organisation
- Ask them to be the person who orders food for the entire family at a cafe, or interacts with the cashier at the till when shopping.

Literacy tip of the week...

Homophone this week:

Loose/Lose.

One means to misplace, the other is the opposite of tight.

If clothing is loose, there is too much of it.

The correct spelling is 'loose' (too many os)

James' trousers are loose.

Katie was careful not to lose her pocket money.

Tip of the Week

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Issue Focus: Understanding Knowledge

email l.cowell@priory.lancs.sch.uk
if you wish to discuss anything
covered in this newsletter