

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.

THE POWER OF 'YET'!

When you walk into a school and classroom in the UK, you will now often be struck by how omnipresent researcher and author, Carol Dweck's 'Growth Mindset' messaging is. On classroom displays, in assemblies and, most importantly, in the way that teachers communicate with pupils. For example 'I can't do it Sir!' to which the teacher replies 'You can't do it ...yet, Jack! So why is this messaging so prevalent now?

Teachers across the land are being actively encouraged to embrace Dweck's philosophy that essentially everyone is capable of anything with an open and growth mindset. With a fixed mindset, what we perceive as difficult or impossible becomes difficult or impossible. And this messaging extends to include teachers too.

Growing bodies of research point to the fact that achievement relies as much on outlook and self-belief as on ability. With that in mind, we at school aim to change our own and pupils' thinking and therefore self-belief by using the table of suggested language here. Perhaps you could try it at home too?

Instead of...	Try thinking...
I'm not good at this	What am I missing
I give up	I'll use a different strategy
It's good enough	Is this really my best work?
I can't make this any better	I can always improve
This is too hard	This may take some time
I made a mistake	Mistakes help me to learn
I just can't do this	I am going to train my brain
I'll never be that smart	I will learn how to do this
Plan A didn't work	There's always plan B
My friend can do it	I will learn from them

SPELLING AND GRAMMAR

The word **it's** is always short for 'it is' (as in it's raining), or in informal speech, for 'it has' (as in it's got six legs).

The word **its** means 'belonging to it' (as in hold its head still while I jump on its back). It is a possessive pronoun like his.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

It's and Its

The infographic is split into two colored sections: a blue section on the left for 'IT'S' and a yellow section on the right for 'ITS'. In the blue section, 'IT'S' is written in large white letters with a red arrow pointing to the apostrophe. Below it, the text reads 'Contraction of "it+is" or "it+has"' and lists three examples: 'It's great to see you.', 'It's been fun.', and 'It's clear to see.' In the yellow section, 'ITS' is written in large white letters with a red arrow pointing to the absence of an apostrophe. Below it, the text reads 'Possessive form of "it"' and lists three examples: 'The tree dropped its leaves.', 'The pencil lost its point.', and 'A robot recharged its battery.'

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if you wish to discuss anything
covered in this newsletter