



Topaz News

Learning behaviours



As you will know we are very keen to promote good learning behaviours throughout the school. We have used ELLI (Effective Lifelong Learning Inventory) language of stickability, perseverance, curiosity etc. when they talk about their learning. Gem powers have added a new dimension to this and, as you know, the children are very keen to grow their diamonds and talk about their brain stars. This is developed throughout the school because it has been found by many research teams to be one of the most powerful things to make children better learners and so make rapid progress.

You will also find a coloured behaviour chart in each room. The root of this again is children taking responsibility for their learning behaviour and, of course, to make our school a great place for everyone to be able to learn. The chart has coloured bands with a green in the middle, which is 'good'. Above, it has two blue bands named 'soaring' and 'soaring high' and one yellow band for 'supersonic'. These can be used to acknowledge positive learning behaviours. This might be great perseverance, concentration, teamwork etc. but it is good to stay green through the day too. Under the green band, there are a pink and black band that we use. Pink means 'think'. If someone is talking on the carpet when we are learning, they would be reminded to stop, but if they carry on their name is moved to 'think'. They can then change their behaviour and be moved back to green. Black is used for things that cannot be acceptable such as breaking things deliberately, hitting, kicking, biting someone etc. This can't always have a reminder but time out is used for 4 minutes and then we talk through the incident and decide how to deal with a similar situation next time. This is used consistently through the day so other staff in school might use this at playtime or assembly.

Your message to the children is that it is great to be green. It is good to be aspirational but we don't award yellow often. I don't usually use stickers as I believe that children need to grow their intrinsic feelings as a reward but sometimes we need a little bit of a focus to make us even better, hence our current drive. I hope this helps.

Chinese New Year



Olaf wanted us to find out about dancing dragons this week. Luckily, some of the children knew that they were the ones from Chinese New Year! We have started to find out a little bit more and have put up some decorations in the classroom. Next week we will continue with this as it fits into our non-fiction learning. You might like to see some lion dancing at Bristol Museum on 4th and 5th February or in Eastgate 28.1.2017

<https://afterdark.co/events/bristol/bristol/chinese-new-year-2017-bristol> 28.1.2017

<https://www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/bristol-museum-and-art-gallery/whats-on/chinese-new-year-rooster/>