



**Coates Lane Primary School**  
*'Happiness at the heart, shaping children of the future'*



Kirkstall Drive, Barnoldswick,  
Lancashire, BB18 6EZ  
Tel: 01282 812203 Website: [www.coateslane.lancs.sch.uk/](http://www.coateslane.lancs.sch.uk/)

Headteacher: Mrs. S White  
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Dear Parents/Carers,

### **GROWTH MINDSET**

We are writing to inform you that we are launching a new whole-school initiative based on the theory of Growth Mindset. Growth Mindset is the understanding that we can improve at almost anything through hard work and practise. It is about recognising that struggling with something which is tricky or difficult doesn't mean you're not smart – it just means you haven't achieved it **yet**. One key area of Growth mindset thinking is that all staff (and parents) should recognise, praise and reward the effort which children put into their work, rather than just the outcome.

- Typically, those with a fixed mindset see intelligence and ability as unchanging. They believe that they are either good at something or they are not. This can adversely affect the highest achieving pupils as well as those who may struggle to achieve academically. These children (and adults) often view failure as a sign to stop – that they can't do it, so shouldn't try.
- Those with a growth mindset are more likely to see intelligence as fluid; something which will increase and flourish through hard work, grit and resilience. These children often rise to challenges better than those with fixed mindsets as they see failure or mistakes as part of learning.

In school, we aim to teach children **HOW** to learn and **HOW** to become resilient when things are tough or they make mistakes. One very tangible benefit of Growth Mindset is that it helps you to stay motivated, to stick it out, when things are difficult. We want our pupils to know that their efforts will result in increased ability (because ability can grow) and remind them that when something is hard for them to do it is because they are learning.

Over the next week, Mr Grogan will lead assemblies based on Growth Mindset and introduce our new initiative to the children.

So, over to you...

During the Easter Holidays, we are encouraging children to participate in a whole school homework project where they must research and make a project about someone who has got a Growth Mindset; someone who didn't give up when something got hard, someone who persevered and achieved their goals. The person can be a friend, family member or someone in the public eye.



Examples include:

- Jack Andraka, the 'genius' youngest cancer researcher – his research project was rejected by 199 of the 200 professors he sent it to.
- Thomas Edison, world renowned inventor – “I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that don't work”
- Lionel Messi – told by coaches that he was too short to be any good.
- J.K. Rowling, author of the Harry Potter series – described herself as “the biggest failure I knew” after the books were rejected by 12 publishers.
- Bethany Hamilton, 13 year old girl who lost an arm in a shark attack, went on to become international surfing champion.
- Malala Yousafzai, the world-famous Pakistani schoolgirl, shot by the Taliban for going to school – now world-wide ambassador for children's (especially girls') right to education and Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Projects can take the form of written work, diagrams, fact-files, diary entries, posters, PowerPoints, videos/animations, models - anything that your child would like to do!

The projects will be shared in class and the best in each year group will be shared in a whole school assembly. All children who complete a project will be awarded a certificate in recognition of their efforts.

Projects should to be brought into school on the first day back after the holidays: Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April. Work done on a computer can be emailed to [homework@coateslane.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:homework@coateslane.lancs.sch.uk)

If anyone has any questions, please contact Mr Grogan who is leading this initiative.

We really hope that you enjoy spending some time researching this project with your children and talking with them about how they can begin to develop a Growth Mindset.

Thank you for your continued support,

Sarah White

Headteacher

