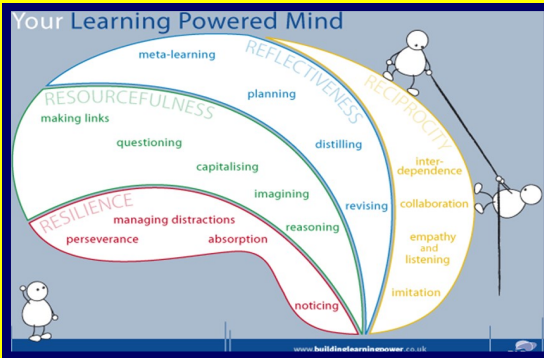


At Farway C of E Primary School we have been researching an educational philosophy called 'Building Learning Power'.

The philosophy encourages children to be self-motivated and to reflect on their learning processes. Children are encouraged to think of their brain as their learning muscle. They must exercise it by developing the seventeen key 'Learning Powers' that make a good learner.

The idea is that the children are not just learning skills to be used during formal education but rather skills for life. These 'Learning Powers' include e.g. making links to prior learning, managing distractions and being absorbed in their learning.

The seventeen 'Learning Powers' fall under four headings: resilience, resourcefulness, reflectiveness and reciprocity. The idea is to introduce the seventeen areas to the children one at a time and to carry out activities to demonstrate the meaning of each power.



We will be attributing each 'Learning Power' to an animal e.g. an owl is used for 'noticing' as they use their huge eyes and can fully rotate their heads to take in everything around them. Bees will be used for 'collaboration' as they work together to produce honey. Posters of the animals with the 'Learning Power' they demonstrate will be displayed in the classrooms. The 'Learning Power' will change each half term to fit in with the current topic.

We would like to encourage you to talk about these 'Learning Powers' with your child/children at home so that they become part of their everyday language and thinking. For example, if they are completing their homework and are ignoring any distractions around them you could talk to them about how they are managing their distractions well, just like a hedgehog.

#### Collaboration

Working with others **requires** some **give and take**. It is important to **recognise** and **respect others views**. When working together **everyone has** their own **skills** and **strengths** to offer. Bees work together as a team to build their hive and collect nectar.



#### Interdependence

Knowing when it's **appropriate to learn on your own** or **with others**. Being able to **stand on your own two feet** but also being able to **accept help**. Penguins depend on each other in order to stay warm and survive in violent snowstorms.



#### Planning

Think about **where you are going** in your learning, **what you will need** to do next and **how long it might take**. A bluebird plans where it is safe to build its nest ready for hatching its eggs. It collects bits of twig and leaves to make the nest.



#### Absorption

Beaver-ing Away! You are absorbed in your learning.



#### Managing Distractions

You need to recognise and reduce the things that distract you from your learning. A hedgehog manages its distractions by curling up into a tight spiky ball.



#### Noticing

You notice things like patterns and details when you are learning. An owl has excellent eye sight and can turn his head all the way around. They see and notice everything.



#### Perseverance

Keep trying and never give up even when learning is difficult. A tortoise is slow but they persevere and get there in the end.



### Questioning

Ask questions of yourself and others. Be curious and playful in your thinking, just like a cat.



### Making Links

Look for connections between things you already know that will help you in your learning. Weave a web of understanding as a spider weaves its web.

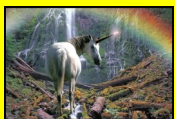


### Imagining

You should use your imagination to create: fantasy creatures; stories and to develop your own ideas.

Explore new possibilities.

Ask the question- **What if ...?**



### Capitalising

Gathering and storing information from the wider world e.g. other people, books, the internet and past experiences. A camel needs to store water in its humps in order to survive.



### Meta Learning

Get to know yourself as a **learner**. Do you learn best by **reading, writing, watching, listening** or **doing**? A crocodile can hunt and live on dry land, however they do it more in the water as they know they are much better at it there.



### Revising

You need to be **flexible** and able to **change** and **adapt** your plans if they are not working. Think about your learning as you are doing it. **Review it- what is working well? What is not working so well?** When an American sea otter is unable to open a clam it finds two stones and puts one on its tummy, then the clam on top, and then it bashes it with the second stone. It is then able to eat the clam.



### Distilling

What are the **main points** that will help you in your learning? Pull out the **essential information**. A magpie only picks out shiny and glittery things to take back to its nest.



### Imitation

**Take good habits, values** and **ideas** from the people around you to help you in your learning.

A parrot learns by imitating and copying what people say.



### Empathy and Listening

**Listen carefully** to others so that you can **understand** them better. Try to **put yourself in their shoes**.

A rabbit has big long ears which enables it to listen carefully.



### Reasoning

Think through your ideas. How can you solve problems in a clear and orderly way? Squirrels are clever animals who can work out how to get to a food source even when it is not an easy task.



# Building Learning Power at Farway C of E Primary School

