



Stanford Infant School

'Exploring and Learning Together, Inspiring Each Other'

Head Teacher – Miss M Denyer

Highcroft Villas

Brighton

BN1 5PS

Tel: 01273 555240

Fax: 01273 551826

Email: office@stanford-inf.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Website: www.stanfordinfants.co.uk

Learning to Learn Week 2018!

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Dear Years 1 and 2 Families

This week, it has been 'Learning to Learn' week!

During the week, all Years 1 and 2 have been discovering **how** we learn and exploring different learning styles/ways of learning. The week has been based around the new Learning Journey in each Year Group: 'Whizz, Bang, Boom, Superheroes!' in Year 1 and 'All Aboard!' in Year 2. During the week, children have been asked to reflect on **how** they learn best as they get involved in their new learning. Once again, they will decide which direction their learning takes, with staff acting as facilitators to their learning.

We all have preferred learning styles and we will be using a variety of different strategies to tune our learners in. Traditional methods of learning concentrate on the left side of the brain and we are trying to make connections between both sides, as using the whole of the brain allows us to learn and retain more. Since young children learn to talk by talking, we learn to swim by swimming and we learn to drive by driving, it makes sense to make learning as practical and activity-based as possible.

If you take a moment, you will be able to think how you learn things best. Some of us are very visual, we have to see everything, whilst some of us need to hear something in order to retain it and others have to actually stand and move to learn. However often we have to do all three to truly understand something, as aiming to use as many methods of learning as possible will keep the whole brain alive and alert. This way we hope all children will be switched onto learning, as the more memorable the experience, so is what is learnt.

We are always keen to ensure the children are involved in the learning process. We aspire to achieve this through nurturing...

- children who know about their learning and can plan their next steps with a grown-up or peer
- children who are active participants in their learning
- children who know learning objectives and what success looks like
- children who use assessment and plan their next steps
- children who become their own teachers!

Our new phrase is '**Practice makes Progress**'.

Our furry friends, the Green Mouse and the Grey Mouse, have featured heavily this week! The Green Mouse is in a growth mindset; embraces challenges, perseveres, is resilient and **courageous**. The Grey Mouse is in a fixed mindset; avoids challenges, gives up easily and is effortless. These characters will continue to go on many adventures over the year and the children will be encouraged to think about developing their own growth mindsets, so that they can be just like the Green Mouse! They will be discussing how their brain is a muscle that needs exercise, how it grows by making new connections, and how we learn by practising and improving our skills.

The children have thought about the 'Ten Steps to Brain Based Learning', including how they have...

1. Brilliant Brain
2. Sides of the Brain

3. Ways of Learning, etc.

Our 'THUNK' (creative thinking) this week, has challenged us to ask '*If you could have a new brain whose would you have and why?*' This has *inspired* some very creative thinking!

We hope you see how much fun the children have had this week; by enhancing the learning, we hope to motivate a desire for more and realise our vision of '*Exploring and Learning Together, Inspiring Each Other!*'

Many thanks for your continued support.



Madeleine Denyer

