



An Lester Trumach - The Packet Ship

6 November 2017

Dear Parents

Learning and Feedback – As part of my focus on learning at the September parents' meetings I mentioned that the teaching staff had been reviewing the way we feed back to children about their learning. There has been a significant amount of debate about marking and feedback in the profession as a whole and in fact Ofsted's one instruction given in our 2014 inspection was for us to ensure that "marking always helps pupils know how well they are doing [and] gives them advice on how to improve." Since that report, the inspection framework has recognised that marking is only one part of the process of taking children forward and that its effects are limited. Inspections no longer comment on marking.

More important than the quality of the marking itself are the effects it has. Essentially:

- does following work demonstrate that children have responded to guidance?
- does work at the end of a book show that they have made progress?
- do children know what they have to do next?

I am writing now to update you with the steps we have taken to support children's learning through specific personal feedback and guidance. Research and training has confirmed that what teachers say and do in class is far more effective than the comments and notes written in books afterwards. Where children do work independently and teachers check this after lessons we found last half term that, by taking notes and speaking with individuals or small groups at the next session, we can address misconceptions or advise on next steps far more efficiently than through traditional ticks, crosses and comments. Those still have a place, but generally only when given while working alongside children there and then. Our own experience confirms this and so we are now implementing a feedback structure based on the work of Dawn Copping, chair of the government's Marking and Policy Review Group and Headteacher of Shaw Primary Academy in Thurrock.

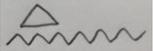
Specific symbols in children's books indicate whether they have been working with adults:



Teacher led



TA supported

or independently ().

At the end of each day teachers check this independent work. They may indicate minor errors, but of greater importance is their summary sheet compiled to highlight specific actions they need to take. If a pupil features in the summary a specific symbol is placed in their book. This could show that they have met the objective and could have next steps or that they might need some further help.



plain sailing



let's light the way

More information about Dawn Copping and her summary of the feedback system is available on the DfE blog site at <https://teaching.blog.gov.uk/2016/02/23/a-whole-new-marking-system>. We've adapted it to reflect our aim for **A Rising Tide to Lift All Ships**.

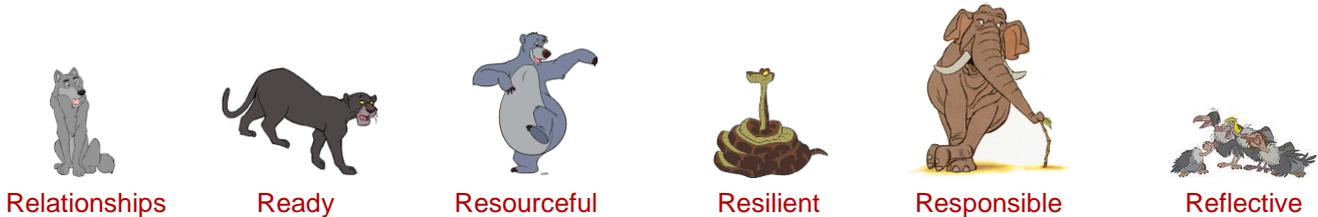
<http://marlborough.eschools.co.uk>



Learning Habits

The children have begun to use the symbols and to see the new marking system in their books. It is very important that they see all of the teacher responses to work as a positive support for taking them forward and the use of the sailing ship and lighthouse stamps should soon underpin their own reflections on their learning. Strengthening our use of the six 'R' Learning Powers has also been a focus this term, and tomorrow Ann Webb who has been working with the teaching team will be joining us to lead our first Whole School Learning Conference. This will be a focussed assembly (we have two more planned before Christmas) for everyone to embed our understanding of these learning powers so that considering how each one helps us becomes a habit and again helps children to know how they can best make progress and what they need to do next.

Following the consultation meetings with teachers, a positive way to continue supporting children will be to ask about the Learning Powers as well as talking about any feedback given through the Exploring Reading books.



Relationships

Ready

Resourceful

Resilient

Responsible

Reflective

Well done to our 24 gymnasts who represented Marlborough at Friday's local round. School team members Eden, Ellie P, Ellie C and Maya have qualified for the next round in the Cornwall Games. Our club team members also came high up the leader board.

Last week's football match was postponed owing to continuing work on the all weather pitch. The Netball B team played an exciting game against King Charles A. It began with some sharp shooting from the opposition leaving Marlborough playing catch up. Our team steadily improved throughout the game and the final score of 6-2 flattered King Charles. Lily-Marie scored both Marlborough's goals and was voted player of the match.



Packet Points					
Last Week			Total		
1 st	Chichester	27	7	1 st	Chichester 38
2 nd	Walsingham	25	5	2 nd	Pelham 31
3 rd	Freeling	23	4	3 rd	Freeling 29
4 th	Swiftsure	22	3	4 th	Swiftsure 27
5 th	Fox	20	2	5 th	Fox 21
6 th	Pelham	15	1	6 th	Walsingham 15



There's an exhibition of artists and artisan craftwork at Penryn Campus this weekend. *Spiral Modern Macramé* will be there with their traditional knotting techniques of hand-crafted contemporary decorations from natural materials.

see @spiralmodernmacrame

Also, with the hint of gifts in the air.... now in stock at school is the second edition of our celebrated cook book, *Feed*.



Well done to Lauren whose design has been chosen as the cover for the Falmouth Haven 2018 Tide Tables booklet.

