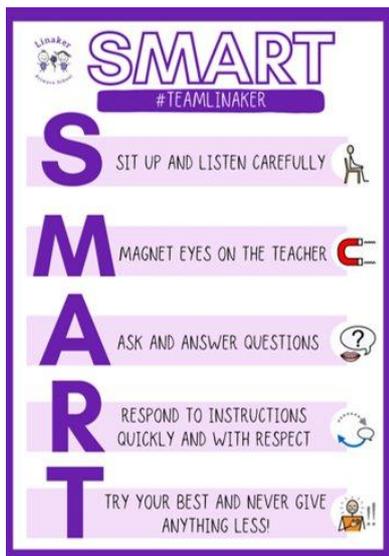


Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September

Dear Parents,

**Engagement in Learning – Being ‘SMART’**



Over the last few weeks, the children have been considering the importance of believing in their potential, aiming high and how they can be learning superheroes! These discussions have been framed around the school’s behaviours for learning ladder and ensuring children understand how they can be super SMART.

**Being SMART**

We have worked hard as a team to create and celebrate our positive culture. We believe all our children can be fully engaged in their learning. However, we have reminded our children that learning is hard and takes a great deal of focus and effort. To help them understand our classroom expectations we have worked with them on being SMART. Children who demonstrate these attributes will find that they remain on the top of our Learning Behaviours Ladder.

**SMART, Time to Think, Time to Change and Time to Reflect**

We have also reminded all our children how each one of them has the right to learn in a safe and calm environment. Sometimes, however, children may make a choice not to work to the best of their ability or to distract others. If this happens, teachers will support them to make the right choice and give them **‘time to think’** and explain what they need to do to change.



If their behaviours do not change, they will be given an additional reminder of the expectations and move to **‘time to change’** on the ladder. Again, if there is no positive change in the behaviour the class teacher will move the child to **‘time to reflect’**. Once on ‘Time to Reflect’, the children will complete a reflection form with their class teacher to reflect on choices made, what can be done differently and how they can best be supported. Where it is possible, teaching staff will speak to parents at the end of the school day when this occurs.

If a child has two or more **‘Time to reflect’** in a half-term, parents will be invited into school to discuss these concerns and how we can work together to best support their child. We understand that some children, particularly those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), may experience specific difficulties with behaviour in the same way others may face challenges in areas such as

reading, writing or maths. In line with our commitment to equity and equality, we acknowledge that fairness does not always mean treating every child the same but rather giving each child the support they need to succeed. This means that some children may require different approaches, support systems or expectations to help them manage their behaviour effectively and develop lifelong skills for emotional regulation and social interaction.

### Punctuality and Attendance Matters



We are committed to ensure all children have regular and full attendance and the importance of this is understood by children and their families. Government research shows a direct link between attendance and attainment, and good attenders make better progress, learn to work with others and are better prepared for transitions from our schools into further and higher education, training and employment. Absence may also mean that a child is more vulnerable to safeguarding risks, such as child exploitation.

We work hard to create a culture where children want to attend school, and we value working with families to identify and remove barriers to full attendance. We need your support to help us achieve our aspirational target that children achieve a 98% attendance for each academic year. We also need your support to ensure that children are in school on time before 8:55am.

### Every Minute Counts

**LATENESS = LOST LEARNING**  
(Figures below are calculated over a school year)

5 Minutes late each day	<b>3 days lost!</b>
10 Minutes late each day	<b>6.5 days lost!</b>
15 Minutes late each day	<b>10 days lost!</b>
20 Minutes late each day	<b>13 days lost!</b>
30 Minutes late each day	<b>19 days lost!</b>

### Starting the day, the right way

We have been running a **FREE** Breakfast Club since the start of the academic year. The free breakfast club offers toast and a range of cereals. The club is open from 8:30am-8:45am each morning, giving every one of our children daily access to a free healthy breakfast, helping them to have the best possible start to the school day! For anyone that has not attended before, our children need to enter school through the Sefton Street gate between 8:25am-8:30am and make their way to the main dining room. The FREE Breakfast Club is staffed by Linaker Primary School teaching assistants and a member of the senior team, who will register, oversee the children and then ensure they move to their classrooms at 8:45am in time for registration. Attendance at the club is a great way to reduce the rush at home and ensure children are in school on time!

Finally, class teachers are keen to celebrate your child's successful start to the academic year and offer constructive feedback of how, together, we can ensure our children be the very best they can be, at our early **Parents' Evening on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October**. We will be sending a separate letter tomorrow regarding the evening tomorrow. Appointments will be bookable from 9:00am on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September through Arbor by clicking the 'Guardian Consultation' tab. Appointment bookings will close on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 12:00 midday. Please remember that all our letters are added to our website [here!](#) If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us at school

Kindest regards,  
*Mark Cunniffe*  
Mr Cunniffe  
Headteacher