

# TEACHING AND LEARNING GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

Welcome to our monthly Learning Newsletter. These newsletters look to help you to implement tried and tested learning strategies at home, in order to benefit your child and further enhance their educational experiences in the long term.

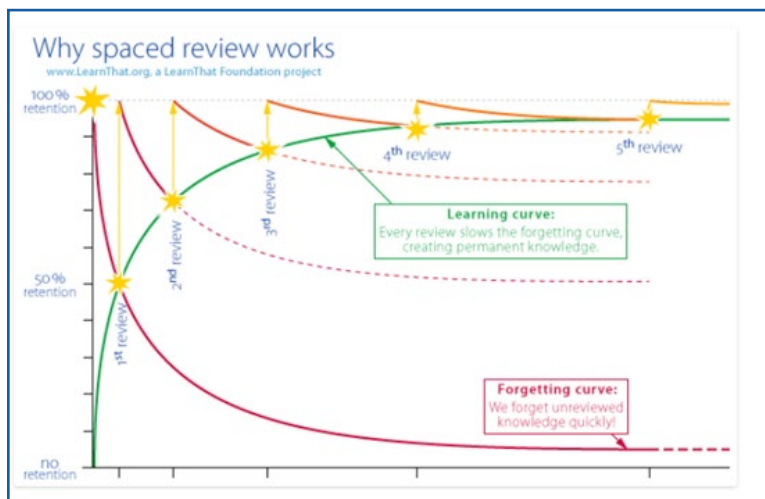
In teaching we need to place a lot of emphasis on embedding skills and knowledge so that pupils can commit these to memory and access them whenever needed. Memory is like a muscle - the more it is used, the better it gets! To make learning stick, you'll find teachers 'interleaving' older content into new learning...

## Interleaving vs Blocking

'Blocking' the learning of new knowledge seems to make sense. First you learn A, then B, then C. So your learning might look something like this: AAA BBB CCC; You start with the first topic or skill, learn all about it, then move on to the next topic or skill. A lot of research shows that while this is the most common form of learning in schools, it is not actually the most effective way in which to learn. Research shows that the brain retains information better when that new information is mixed up with older information, when it is 'interleaved'. Another way to describe 'interleaving' is 'distributed practice' or 'spaced practice vs mass practice'. When you interleave, your learning pattern might look like this: ABC ABC ABC, rather than the blocked AAA BBB CCC.

Distributed repetition of new knowledge aids retention>>

If you've been teaching some new skills or knowledge at home, try the interleaving technique to aid its longer term retention.



## Literacy tip of the week...

### Apostrophes

#### Possession

We use an apostrophe to show somebody owns something.

E.g. Sam's shop

It comes BEFORE the 's'

#### To replace letters to shorten words

Do not = Don't  
It is/ it has = it's  
Can not = Can't

What if the person's name already ends in 's'?

E.g. James

If something belonged to James, we place the apostrophe after the 's' and leave it there.

E.g. James's shop



#### Plural situations

If there was one cat who owned a mat, it would be...

The cat's mat.



If the cat had a boyfriend, both of them would own the mat. Then it would be...

The cats' mat.



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if you wish to discuss anything covered in this newsletter

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Issue Focus: Embedding