

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to this new and exciting academic year, it is pleasing to hear how well your children have settled back into the new term and I thoroughly enjoyed sharing our values worship across the trust this week – reflecting on our value of respect.

The year has got off to a brilliant start, staff were motivated and engaged in a week of INSET days training preparing us for a new academic year of drive and challenge, ensuring teaching and learning is the best it can be for our children.

This letter to you is twofold, firstly it is to inform you that we have an **INSET day on Monday, the 31st of October 2022**, across the trust in order for us to further develop our staff understanding of and use of metacognition for learning in the classroom, a long journey which we started in our training week.

The second part to this message is a bit of information about this area of development. Your schools will be informing you of their school level school improvement priorities, and metacognition across the curriculum is included in this.

So what is metacognition:

When our children find something difficult, the seemingly insurmountable English homework, a maths test that takes on epic proportions, social struggles that leave them feeling frustrated — it can be tempting to give up and resort to four words none of us want to hear: “I can’t do it.” In order to thrive and learn effectively, children need to be able to make the transition from the negative “I can’t” to the proactive “How can I?” To do that, they need to think about why they’re stuck, what’s frustrating them, what they would need to get unstuck. They need to think about their own thinking and how they learn. There’s a word for that - **metacognition**. Metacognition is something most of us do every day without even noticing. Reflecting on our own thoughts is how we gain insight into our feelings, needs, and behaviours — and how we learn, manage, and adapt to new experiences, challenges, and setbacks. It’s the running conversation we have in our heads, mentally sounding ourselves out and making plans. Teaching children to use it proactively to consider how to best learn, reflect on what they already know and indeed overcome obstacles can be a powerful tool.

We’d love you to be involved in the first part of our work which explores ‘What a good TSSMAT learner looks like.’

Attached is a page where we’d love families to list all the learning attitudes that they think a good learner displays. You might like to simply scribble on it and send it back, email your responses to us or even create a poster as a family! If you send your entry in with your name on we will send home a raffle ticket to enter a **prize draw! Closing date is Monday 26th September**. We will use your words, those provided by staff, children, Trustees and Governors to create a ‘What a good TSSMAT learner looks like’ poster and will send a copy home!

Thank you for engaging with us and please pop the INSET date in your diary.

I hope you all have a super start to the academic year and I look forward to sharing the outcomes of our explorations by the end of October.

Kind Regards,

Mrs. Charlene Gethin
(Chief Executive Officer)