



EDUCATION
KING'S PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Dear Parents/Carers,

We are very proud to have been selected to work with a highly esteemed, leading expert in educational research and improving educational outcomes for children.

Primary 3B and 5B have been selected to take part in an exciting opportunity to contribute to Shirley Clarke's educational research as part of a Midlothian wide project involving 15 schools.

What is the research project about?

There is a substantial range of evidence emerging that shows that reward systems actually have little impact on improving learning, as much as we might like them. This is based on extensive research into the impact of praise in the classroom and a desire to move towards a more self-motivating model. The aims of this research project are to identify the best ways to develop a growth mindset in the classroom, with a specific focus on intrinsic motivation (i.e. children are self motivated to improve and are not reliant on stickers etc.)

The goal of the project is therefore to help the children learn new and different ways to feel confident and motivated to learn. The project will assist the children in the understanding of their own personal learning journey. We aim for all children to be able to identify their learning needs and articulate their next steps.

Due to this, both classes will be undertaking an exciting piece of research to help them see what happens to their learning when we remove reward systems such as class dojo, table points, Golden Time etc. and replace these with very focused verbal feedback about how to improve.

You might find that your child starts using new some phrases in the months ahead, and we thought it might be useful to share some of these with you:

Term	Explanation
"learning zone"	We aim for children to spend the maximum amount of time possible here. Work is challenging but achievable and children are developing new skills.
"panic zone"	Children cannot proceed with the task. They have attempted to draw on their existing coping strategies but they are still stuck.
"comfort zone"	Children are 'cruising' and doing work that they find easy. They can complete the task automatically without too much difficulty or effort.

Please feel free to contact the school with any questions you may have about this exciting opportunity.

Kind regards
Ms Limerick