



# OLD CLEE PRIMARY ACADEMY

*Inspired to Believe, Learning to Succeed*

13<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

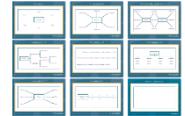
As you know, we have been working hard on our *Thinking* journey. We began this in September 2023 with the aim of helping our children become more resilient and independent learners. We noticed that children often relied quite heavily on support from teachers and teaching assistants, and we wanted to give them the skills to take a more active role in their learning. Our goal is to help children gain confidence in tackling challenges, enjoy the process of problem-solving, and use a variety of strategies to succeed. In short, we want to nurture their ability to think for themselves.

We have been working with *Thinking Matters* to train as a Thinking School. One of the main areas we have focused on is developing both our own — and the children's — understanding of **cognition** and **metacognition**.

- **Cognition** means the process of gaining knowledge and understanding — in other words, learning.
- **Metacognition** means being aware of how we think and learn — understanding the strategies we use and how to improve them.

Research shows that teaching children metacognitive strategies has a really positive impact on their progress. It helps them to plan, monitor, and reflect on their learning. Just as importantly, it encourages them to think carefully about which strategies will help them most, and to choose the right one at the right time.

So, what have we been doing so far?



## Thinking Frames

Please find attached a leaflet about Thinking Frames. You may have seen this before, as we shared it at the start of our Thinking journey, but we wanted to revisit it now.

This term we have now introduced Habits of Mind.

## Habits of Mind

Habits of Mind are ways of thinking and behaving that help us when we face challenges or problems where the answer isn't obvious straight away. By encouraging children to use these habits, we help them to produce work of higher quality, think more deeply, and approach their learning with greater confidence.

There are sixteen Habits of Mind in total, but this year we will be focusing on introducing six of them to the children, beginning with Striving for Accuracy. These habits are displayed in every classroom and are referred to regularly so that children can use them in their everyday learning.

What does Striving for Accuracy mean? **CHECK IT AGAIN!**



This means

- ✓ Taking your time to be careful.
- ✓ Fixing mistakes when you find them.
- ✓ Checking your work to make sure it is right by editing it with care. Avoiding careless mistakes.
- ✓ Checking your facts and the claims you make.
- ✓ Caring about quality, not just finishing quickly. Always presenting your best.
- ✓ Don't rush. Do it right!

After half term we will be moving to the Habit of Mind - Persisting – **STICK TO IT!**

It is when you keep trying even when you find something difficult:

- ✓ Persevering in task through to completion; remaining focused.
- ✓ Looking for ways to reach your goal when stuck.
- ✓ Not giving up.



### How Parents Can Help

We would love your support in helping children become more independent and resilient. Here are some simple ways you can help at home:

**Use a weekly timetable:** Display a timetable on the fridge or in your child's bedroom and encourage them to check it each morning or before bed to get organised.

**Prepare for the morning:** Expect children to put their shoes, bags, and other essentials by the door so they are ready for school.

**Taking Responsibility for Belongings:** Encourage your child to look after their own items, such as their water bottle, book bag, homework, and any equipment needed for after-school clubs. Ask them to check their school bag when they get home to make sure they return anything needed and complete any homework.

**Learning through games:** When playing games, allow children to experience losing as well as winning — it helps build resilience.

**Encourage effort:** It's okay to let children know if their homework isn't their best effort, so they learn the value of trying their hardest.

**Focus on positives:** If your child has had a tough day, help them find something positive from it rather than dwelling on what went wrong.

**Practical skills:** Encourage independence with small tasks, such as learning to tie shoelaces, rather than asking teachers to do it for them.

**Attendance confidence:** If your child feels slightly under the weather but is well enough for school, encourage them to attend rather than suggesting you will pick them up if they feel unwell.

By supporting children with these small but important habits, you are helping them to develop independence, resilience, and confidence both at school and at home.

Your Sincerely

Mrs S. Fawn  
Deputy Headteacher