**How Praise Can Help to Develop a Growth Mindset**

As a staff, we will be aiming to praise **effort, persistence, strategies, seeking challenges, setting goals, planning and using creative ways of solving problems**, rather than talent or intelligence. Staff will try to avoid praise like “You did that so quickly” or “Look, you didn’t make any mistakes!” This can send the message that speed and perfection are what is prized most. However, speed and perfection can be the enemy of difficult learning. Children can think, “If you believe I’m smart when I’m fast and perfect, I’d better not take on anything challenging” when in fact some of the best learning comes from learning from mistakes and the process of how to develop from there.

Children love praise. They especially love praise about their intelligence and talent. It really gives them a boost and a special feeling..... but only for a short time. The minute they hit a snag, their confidence can be destroyed and motivation hits rock bottom. If success means they are smart, then failure can mean they are dumb.

Children often worry about failure in school, and feel doing poorly in one piece of work means they simply cannot and will never be able to do something. The message to them is that they may not be able to do it YET.

Phrases that staff at Stone CE Combined School will be aiming to use are:

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| Phrases which encourage a **fixed** mindset | Phrases which encourage a **growth** mindset |
| You’re a great writer / footballer / artist | It really shows when you work hard at your writing / football / painting |
| We are so proud that you got X marks | The effort you put in makes us so proud |
| I’m not sure it was worth all that effort | You tried so hard – I can see that |
| That took you ages | That was a struggle for you and you kept going – well done |
| What a shame you only got 15/20 | Let’s look at those mistakes – they’re a real chance to learn |
| You did that so easily – what a bright spark you are | You did that so easily – maybe it wasn’t enough of a challenge |
| You’re not a natural swimmer | You can’t swim yet, but if you keep trying, you’ll get there |
| You’re really talented | Your commitment and practice have paid off |
| Don’t worry I was never good at Maths at school | I found Maths tricky at school but I needed to keep going and learn from my mistakes |