



Rushden Primary Academy

Skills Builder Newsletter

Spring Term 1



Welcome to the first Skills Builder Newsletter. As an academy, we are adapting the way we build on children's life skills and with the support of Skills Builder, we are beginning to follow the robust and creative framework.



This Universal Framework launched in 2017, which is used in more than 750 organisations, helps to join up eight integral life skills and build them into everyday life at school and into a child's future.



It supports children in:

- Understanding their existing skills: Reflecting on where their essential skills currently are, and being able to identify any gaps they might have
- Seeing what progress looks like: Being able to see what the next steps are to improve their essential skills further
- Joining the dots: Using a consistent language and understanding of essential skills to understand how they are used and practiced in lots of different settings
- Capturing success: Seeing progress and being able to better articulate their skills



The starting point is eight essential skills.



Every term, I will report to you how our journey is progressing and provide you with evidence and successes of how the children are doing. Also, I will suggest things for you to do at home to support the development of these skills and the language that we are adhering to.



If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via admin@rushdenprimaryacademy.org or access the Skills Builder website via www.skillsbuilder.org/parents-and-carers, where you will find extra information and gain some free resources if you would like to have a go at home. The framework is also available at: www.skillsbuilder.org/universal-framework/listening



Miss Hawes
Enrichment and KS2 Leader

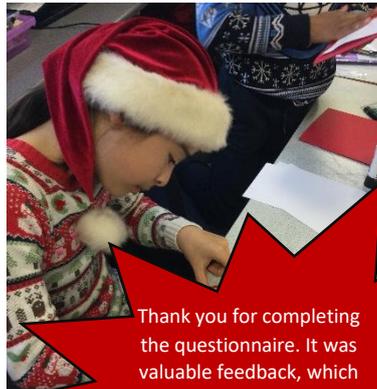




As a teaching body, we chose LISTENING as our first skill to focus on. So far, the children have accessed lots of different resources provided to us by Skills Builder and have already shown progress on building this skill. It has been brilliant to focus on the 'nitty gritty' of this life skill that we take for granted and work on the smaller steps to achieving the best out of our listening.

Christmas Card Project

You may remember that the KS2 children took part in a project the week before Christmas?! This project was designed with the eight skills in mind and had a huge impact on the children's creativity and teamwork skills. For our first Skills Builder project, we raised £68 for our academies' library and the children felt exceptionally valued and grateful for the independence they had in progressing through the tasks. Here are some of the photographs taken of the children during that week.



Thank you for completing the questionnaire. It was valuable feedback, which has impacted our next steps!

A Listening Project for Home:

Each term, I will issue a new challenge to access from home, which you can complete with your child. This term is a musical listening activity:

Listen carefully to a song you know well. It might be one of your favourites. Really concentrate on the lyrics (words).

Ask yourself what the song is about? Why do you like it? Do the lyrics tell a story? Which words stand out to you and are memorable?

After you have listened to the song, tell someone else about it. Say why you like it.

Have a go at explaining what you think the song is about.

Can you summarise it or rephrase it? Maybe you can sing it.

Ask them to tell you about one of their favourite songs too.

Reflection Questions

Getting Started: How can you make sure you are listening carefully?

Intermediate: What does it mean to summarise what you have heard?

Advanced: Why is summarising or rephrasing what you have heard useful sometimes?

Mastery: How might changing the language (words) used affect how you feel about something?

))) Listening

Next term, we shall be focusing on:

TEAMWORK

We shall be immersing the children in activities surrounding this skill during Career's Week so keep your eyes peeled!

