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Dear Parents

In nursery we like to focus not only on what children are learning but also on how they are learning. We have created learning dinosaurs based on the characteristics of effective learning from the EYFS framework.

We will be talking to the children about these dinosaurs and what they represent throughout the year. Children will be given stickers and certificates to celebrate their positive learning behaviours based on the dinosaurs.

We have attached an information sheet for you so that you can talk to your children about their learning. If you have any further questions please feel free to come into school and talk to a member of staff about this.

Kind regards  
EYFS team

### The Characteristics of Effective Learning.

In reception we foster the **Characteristics of Effective Early Learning**. These are:

**Playing and Exploring**, which encourages children to progress in the following skills:

- Finding out and exploring
- Playing with what they know
- Being willing to have a go

**Active Learning**, which encourages children to progress in the following skills:

- Being involved and concentrating
- Keeping trying
- Enjoying achieving what they set out to do

**Creating and Thinking Critically**, which encourages children to progress in the following skills:

- Having their own ideas
- Making links
- Choosing ways to do things

*Please turn over the page*

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On a day to day basis we encourage the children to use and develop these skills. We include them in our observations of the children, and we assess the children against them at the end of the year.

At Elloughton School we use a Dinosaur themed approach to the Characteristics of Effective Learning. We have a Characteristics Dinosaur display wall where the children's faces and work are placed if they show a particular skill linked to them and children will be awarded certificates when they have worked hard to achieve one of these skills.

## **Our 'Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning'**

### **Achievosaurus**

#### **What are the 'Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning'?**

They run through and underpin the seven areas of learning and development, as detailed in the 'Early Years Foundation Stage Framework' (2012). They describe learning processes that occur throughout every day activities and experiences. They support the child to remain an effective and motivated learner. They give children skills to be learners for life.

#### **What are the Achievosaurus?**

There are seven Achievosaurus altogether, each linking to an aspect of the characteristics of effective learning. They enable children to become more aware of how they learn, and give them language to explain the skills they use when learning.

#### **Meet the achievosaurus**

**Tryatops** are known for their ability to always try their best in whatever they do. They have a real 'can do' attitude.

**Stickasaurus** have bags of perseverance and never give up, even when the going gets tough. They are known for sticking at things.

**Shareadactyls** are known for their kindness and ability to share. Whether it is sharing ideas or resources, they always consider others in their learning. They are great team players.

