

Simply
THE BEST

BARKING ABBEY
PARENTAL NEWSLETTER 10

Parental involvement is consistently associated with pupils' success at school

Your Role Matters...

DEMOCRACY MEANS EVERYONE



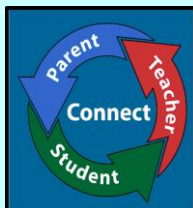
Every 2 weeks your child is introduced to a **BEST Learning Habit** at school, please ensure that you:

1. Explain what it means
2. Show your child how to model the behaviour
3. Offer plenty of examples of how other members of the family have modelled the behaviour

(Please use the resource for tips to help you, or find out more from:

<http://www.barkingabbeyschool.co.uk/assets/Uploads/Documents/The-Best-Learning-Habits-for-Parental-guidance.pdf>

Democracy is the government of the people, by the people, for the people.
- Abraham Lincoln



Here is our fortnightly learning habit and some tips to guide you:

Democracy

Democracy allows everyone to have their voice heard, in a democracy, people choose who they want to represent them to put forward their views



Behaviours that you can develop:

Considering other people's points of view, thinking about others, understanding other people's situation, making decisions together, being informed about the different political parties, understanding how government is voted for by the community.

Top Tips

Students:

- Develop your debating skills; identify both sides of an argument.
- Research information on the different political parties in the UK and make your own decision on whom to support
- Find out about your rights and responsibilities
- Debate a news story or an issue you feel strongly about from the opposite viewpoint, with a friend

Parents:

- Encourage your child to know that their view and opinions count, by discussing a topic of interest to them.
- Encourage your child to keep informed by watching and or reading about the news
- Take your child to the local polling station on voting days
- Take a day trip to the Houses of Parliament

Remember:

What is **rewarded** is **repeated**

FUN FACTS ABOUT THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT



The Houses of Parliament, also called the Palace of Westminster, was once a royal palace. The last monarch to live here was Henry VIII. Westminster Hall is the oldest room inside. It was built in 1097 and was once the largest hall in Europe!

There are hooks for swords in the lifts and gentlemen are expected to hang their swords on them, of course, no-one carries a sword with them these days!

The building has three towers: Victoria Tower, the Central Tower and the Clock Tower (Big Ben), recently renamed the Elizabeth Tower. Victoria Tower is the tallest at 120 meters and Big Ben is the most famous.

No animals are allowed into the Palace of Westminster, other than Seeing Eye dogs. However, the huge building is said to be overrun with mice.

An impressive 300 panes of glass cover the clock-face known to many as Big Ben, but Big Ben is the name of the bell inside the tower.

There are 100 staircases, more than 1,000 rooms and three miles of passages, wonder how many are secret tunnels!

MPs are not allowed to swear in the House of Commons or insult each other or accuse each other of lying, as it might "offend the dignity" of Parliament. This leads to roundabout phrases like "being economical with the truth" when debates get heated!

At the lobby inside, there are statues of UK's past Prime Ministers. Members of the Parliament touch the statues (for good luck) of their favoured Prime Minister before they face their fellows for a debate or speech.

For over four centuries, every day in the Commons has begun with prayers, which last for three minutes and require MPs to face the wall for the duration.

The Queen addresses Parliament once a year when it opens – but neither she nor any member of the Royal Family is allowed into the House of Commons, where elected MPs sit.

To check whether your child has received BEST points you can use SIMS Parent <https://www.sims-parent.co.uk> or download the SIMS Parent App for your smartphone. Invites to SIMS parent have already been sent to all parents, if you haven't received one or need further help please email itsupport@barkingabbeysschool.co.uk.