### 2. Learning New Skills

**Why do we encourage all children to learn a new skill?**

“The only skill that will be important in the 21st century is the skill of learning new skills. Everything else will become obsolete over time.” – Peter Drucker

“Every expert was once a beginner.” – Helen Hayes

What better way to dissect the learning process than by learning a new skill together? The new skills lessons have been developed to allow teachers and children to break down the learning process outside of curriculum subjects, meaning that everyone is starting on a level playing field. From an early age children often already have fixed feelings about school subjects, so by introducing a non-curriculum new skill it means that preconceptions children have about their own ability are left at the door, rather than “I hate this subject because I always find it hard.”

After an initial lesson discussing (or recapping) what metacognition is and what the performance tag colours are, children spend four lessons learning a new skill together. They will also look at the different strategies that help them learn and reflect on the effectiveness of these. The children will also learn how to realistically assess their progress and set achievable goals that will help them advance their learning in the future.

Learning a new skill also teaches children about resilience, perseverance and the importance of failure. Children will learn how to talk about mistakes, take feedback and coach/be coached in a safe environment, making it easier to do so later in curriculum lessons when the children may feel there is more at stake.

The last two lessons in this set focus on reflecting and using SeeSaw.

Each lesson has tasks for the week that help you apply what children have learned in ReflectED lesson in curriculum subjects – please read these carefully in your planning time so you are able to plan them into your week.

We have found that children get the most out of the lessons when the teacher shares their own experiences and learns with them, as it enables them to see that learning isn’t something you ever complete – it’s a never ending journey and even teachers still have a lot to learn! Whilst we hope that you have all mastered how to tie your shoelaces, we hope that you will also embrace learning a new skill with your class. These new skills are merely suggestions. If you have a skill you would like to learn with your class you are free to adapt the plans to suit.

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**Key Vocabulary**

- New skills, reflection, learning strategies, practise, red, yellow, green, blue, performance, success, failure, coach, coachee, emotions.

**The New Skills**

- Year 1 – tying a shoelace
- Year 2 – using chopsticks
- Year 3 – British Sign Language
- Year 4 – sewing
- Year 5 – juggling
- Year 6 – using a compass