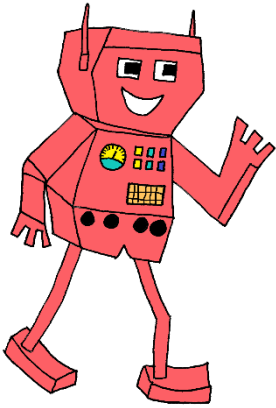
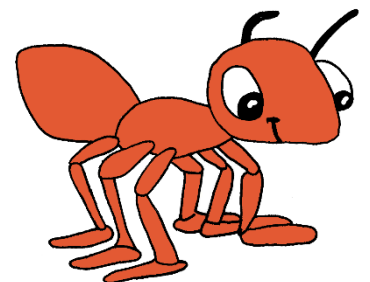
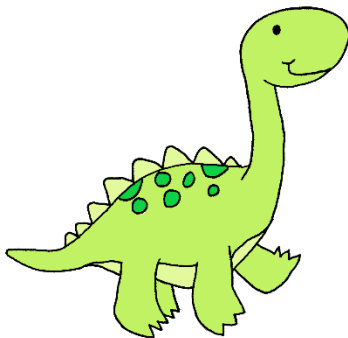
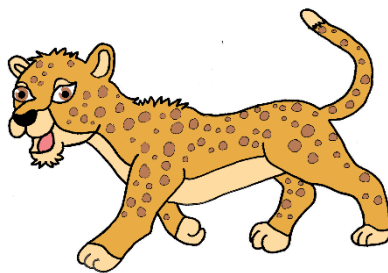
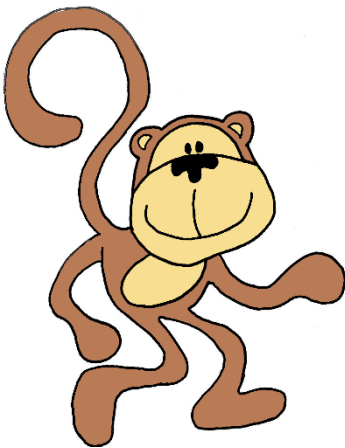


Faringdon Infant School



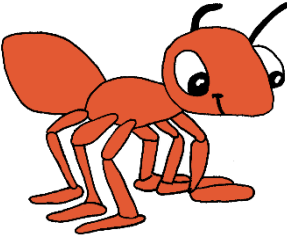
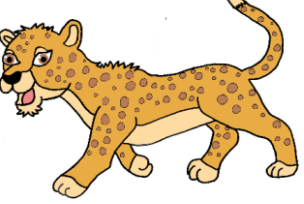
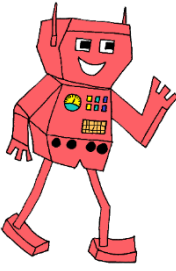
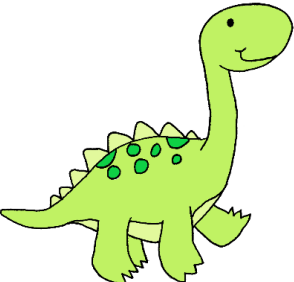



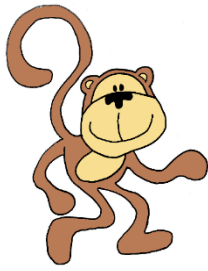
Learning Muscles



At Faringdon Infant School we have 9 Learning Muscles which the children are introduced to from Nursery up to Year 2. These Learning Muscles are skills and qualities we encourage and nurture to enable children to develop a Growth Mindset. We explain to the children that using these learning muscles will help make their brains strong and help them develop the stamina, motivation and love of learning not just for while they attend our school but as lifelong learners.

Our Learning Muscles are represented by different characters – each with their own story to explain how that character uses their learning skill.

The Learning Muscles are:

 <p>Andy Ant cooperates.</p>	 <p>Mo the Cheetah always has a go.</p>	 <p>Raj the Robot keeps going and never gives up.</p>	 <p>Daisy Dinosaur uses her imagination.</p>
 <p>Maggie Meerkat is curious.</p>	 <p>Olga Owl concentrates.</p>	 <p>George the Giant keeps growing and improving.</p>	 <p>Monty Monkey enjoys learning,</p>

This booklet includes the stories for each of the Learning Muscles which we use to explain each Learning Muscle and you are more than welcome to use these at home too to support your child in their home learning.

Cooperation - Andy Ant

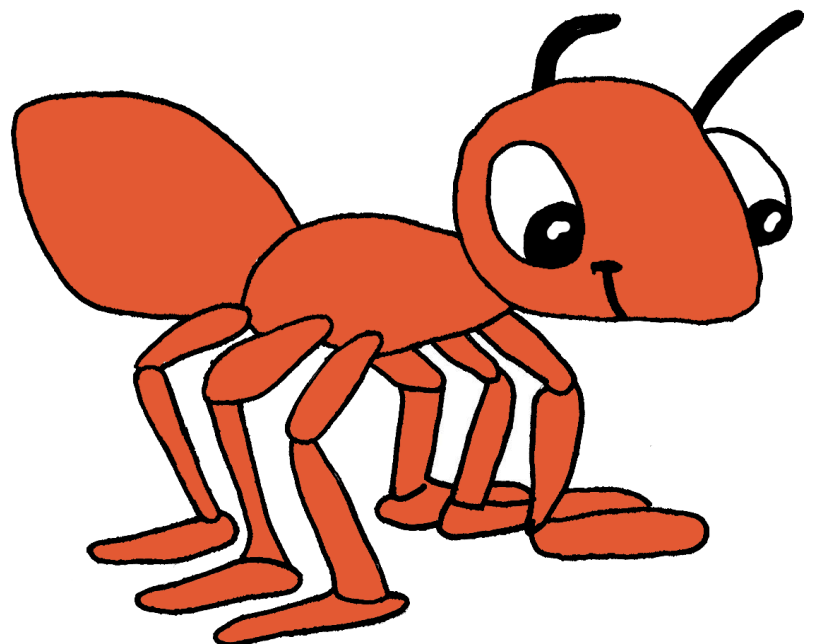
Andy was an ant. Like all the other ants, he had an important job to do. Every day he had to go out into the forest to look for food and other useful things. If he found something, he would put it on his back and carry it home to the ant nest. One day he was searching through the leaves under an oak tree, when something landed with a thud right next to him. It was an acorn. "Wow!" thought Andy. "I wonder if I can take this back to the ant nest." He tried to pick it up, but it was too big. He tried to push it, but it was too heavy. Then one of his ant friends came scurrying past. "What are you doing Andy?" asked his friend. "I want to take this acorn back to the nest," Andy replied, "but it's too big to pick up and too heavy to push."

"I'll give you a hand," said his friend. Together they tried to lift the acorn, but it was still too big. Then they tried to push it, but it was still too heavy.

"Hey, what are you doing?" called a voice. It was another one of their ant friends. "We want to take this acorn back to the nest," Andy answered, "but it's too big to lift and too heavy to push."

"I'll give you a hand," said their friend.

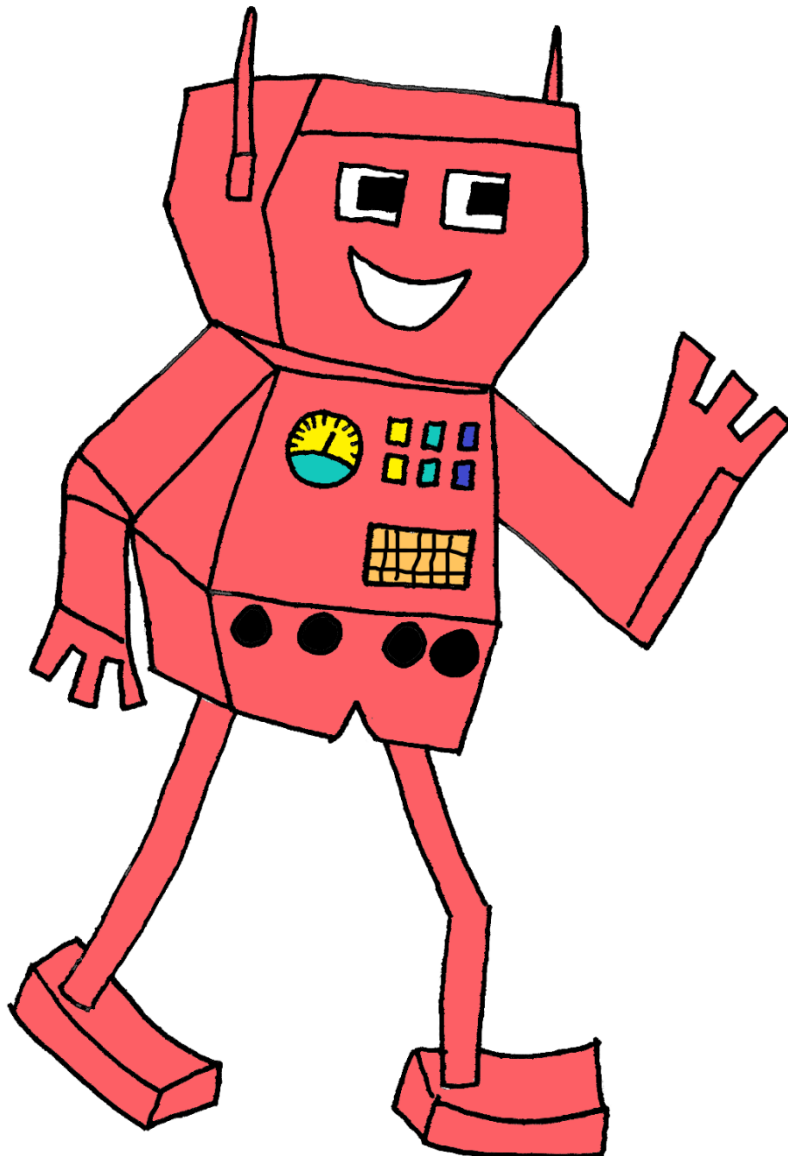
Can you guess what happened next? When the three ants tried to pick up the acorn together, they found it wasn't too heavy anymore. Back they went to their nest with the special acorn on their backs. "Now that's what I call co-operation!" said Andy.



Don't give up! - Raj the Robot!

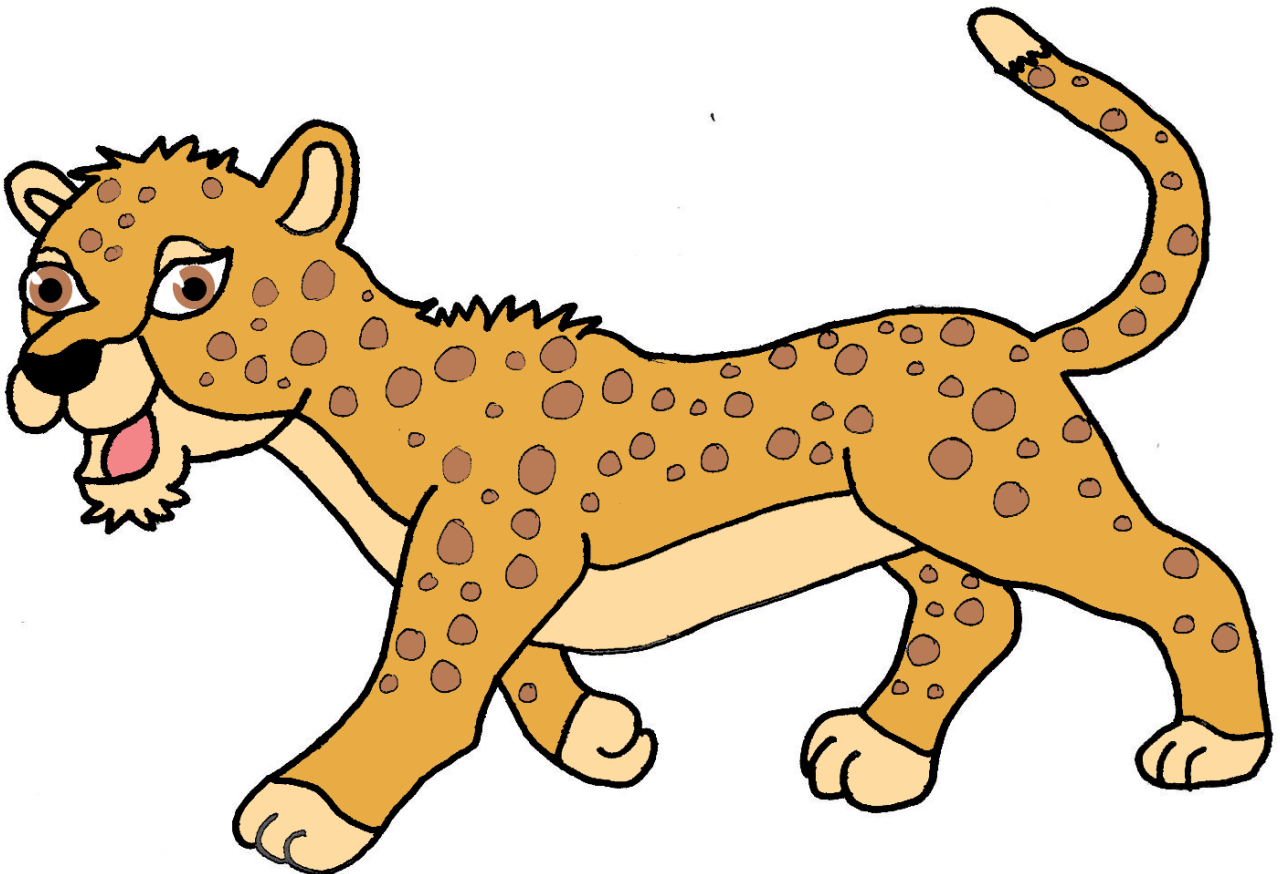
One sunny morning Raj was playing in the park. "Wheeeeeee!" he shouted as he played on the swing. He swung higher and higher up into the sky. Soon it was time to go home, he had only walked a little way when, "My switch!" cried Raj. "It has disappeared, where can it be?" Raj searched high and low, in and out of days and almost through a year. He thought he had found it, but it was only a milk bottle top. He asked all his friends if they'd seen his switch. He asked Olga Owl, Monty the Monkey and Andy Ant but no one had seen his switch.

Raj kept searching and searching. His friends were all so proud that he hadn't given up, so they decided to help him. They mad Raj a new switch. He was so happy!



Have a Go! - Mo the Cheetah

It was Mo the Cheetah's very first P.E lesson. He was so worried! "I don't want to join in" Mo said to his teacher. "All of the other animals are bigger and better than me." His teacher Mrs Elle-phant said "Just have a go Mo!" Reluctantly Mo put his P.E kit on and dragged his feet to the school field. "Right children today we will be practising for sports day. First up, the relay race!" Mo was surprised when his good friend Leo the Lion picked him to be on his team. Mo said to Leo "why did you pick me? I am no good at running!" remembering the first time he had tried and had tripped up over his growing legs. "Don't worry!" said Leo "just have a go Mo!" The children lined up in their places excitedly, Mo was shaking with nerves and then the whistle blew! Mo's turn was getting closer and closer!! Then, all of a sudden, the baton was passed to him and before he knew it he had forgotten his fears and was pelting down the track. Swiftly he overtook his classmates one by one until he broke through the finish line! Everyone cheered Mo and his team. He was really glad he had a go!



Curiosity - Maggie Meerkat

Maggie Meerkat, Daisy Dinosaur and George the Giant packed their bags as they were going on holiday to Italy. Maggie was so excited when they got to Italy because she had never been before. As she was scuttling along something caught her eye, so she crept closer to take a better look. She hadn't seen anything like it before and didn't know what it was. She decided to ask Daisy, but she didn't know what it was, it definitely wasn't the Folly Tower, she knew what that looked like. She asked George but he didn't know what it was either, Maggie asked all her friends but none of them knew what it was. She took her magnifying glass out and started to explore the tower carefully, she found writing and it made her even more curious. She almost gave up but decided to ask one more person, she saw another Meerkat that she didn't know and asked her. "Excuse me, do you know what that big stone tube thing it?" "It's called the Leaning Tower of Pisa" the Meerkat answered. Maggie was glad that she kept searching for the answer.



Imagination - Daisy Dinosaur

Daisy Dinosaur was having a dull day. In the morning she had had to go shopping with mum to buy a new cupboard. Now, instead of taking her to the park, mum was busy building the cupboard.

“Off you go and play, Daisy,” her mum said.

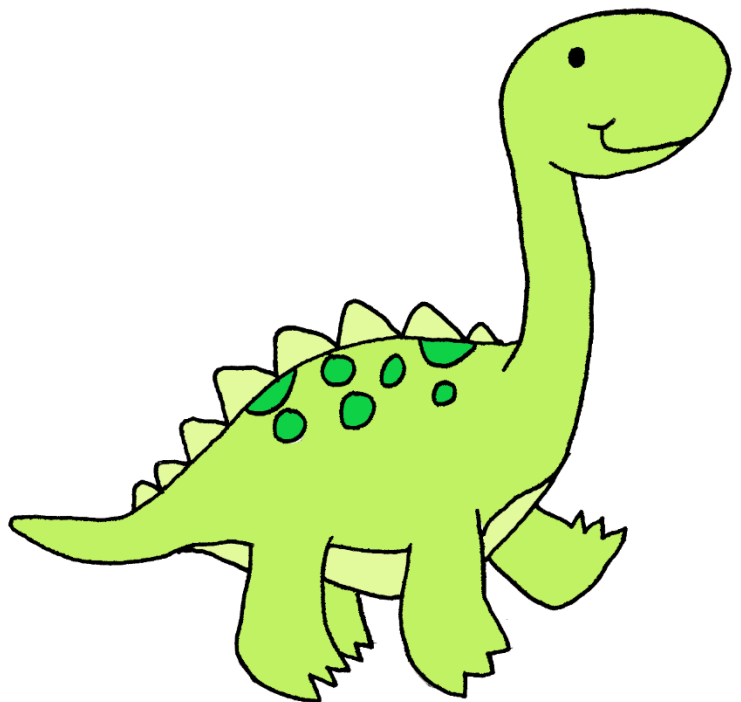
But Daisy didn't want to go off to play. She was bored. She crawled into the big box that the new cupboard had come in and sulked.

“It's not very cosy in here,” she thought. “It needs some cushions and maybe a blanket too.” She went off to get what she needed. “This is just like an explorer's den,” she thought, “but it would be better with a torch and maybe a snack to eat.” Soon she'd found her torch and fetched a drink and an apple from the kitchen. When she'd eaten her snack, she thought to herself. “If I was a real explorer, I wouldn't just stay in one place. I'd need a boat and I'd go off to a desert island to find treasure.” She turned her box over and rocked it to and fro till it capsized and threw her onto the island beach. “This island is a bit small,” thought Daisy. “If I was a real explorer, I'd build a rocket and go off to the stars.” She wrapped her box up in some aluminium foil she found in the kitchen, put on her bike helmet and borrowed Dad's binoculars just in case. Just as she was arriving on Mars, she heard a distant voice calling.

“Daisy! Daisy! What are you doing? I've finished the cupboard. Do you want to go to the park?”

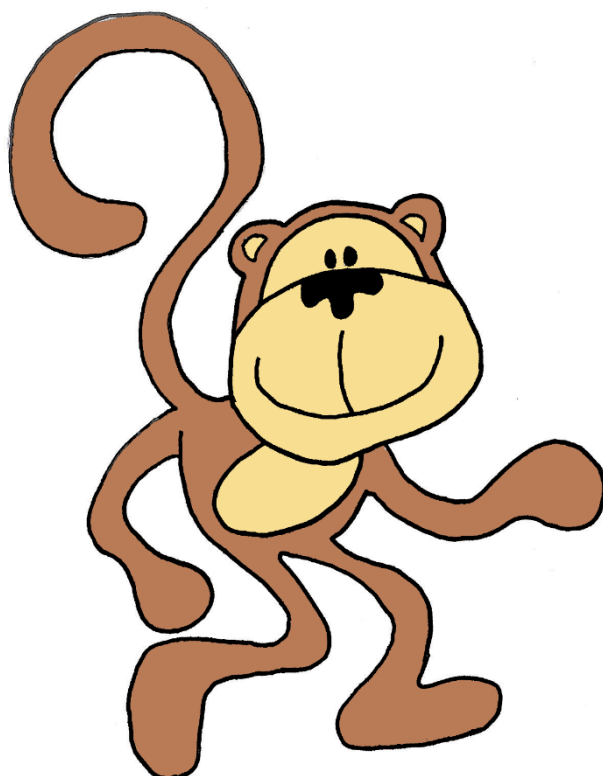
“Sorry mum,” Daisy radioed back. “I'm just landing on Mars.”

“Goodness me!” her mum replied. “Imagine that!”



Enjoy Learning - Monty Monkey

Monty was a naughty monkey! He never wanted to help his mum, he was mean to his sister and he used to pretend he was ill when it was time to go to school. One sunny day his sister Mindy was starting school. She was so excited and couldn't wait to learn new things! However, naughty Monty still refused to go to school. Monty said "I don't want to go to school. I just want to stay at home and play" Later that day Mindy returned from school really excited she said "School is fun and I have learnt all kinds of new things. Monty thought his sister was silly and decided to go and find his friends Raj the Robot and Maggie the Meerkat. But they were too busy doing their home learning, to play. "Can I do it too?" said Monty. Raj then started asking Monty all types of questions 'What is 2 plus 2? Why did Jack climb the beanstalk?' But Monty couldn't answer any of the questions and he felt very silly. Monty thought I'd better go to school tomorrow so I can learn new things. Very early the next morning Monty packed his bag and a lunch box ready for school. He was feeling nervous but excited! He had so much fun and he was so proud to show his mum how he had learnt to write his name and so many other new things. He thought that playing was the only type of fun he could have but he was wrong. Learning was fun too!



Concentration - Olga Owl

One starry night Olga the owl sat perched on her branch watching her Mummy, Daddy and big brother swoop across the night sky. “Wow!” she screeched as she jumped up and down on the branch with excitement, nearly falling off! “Oh, I wish I could fly” she sighed.

The next day, when Olga was asleep, she had a wonderful dream that she flew high above the trees, whizzing in and out of the clouds. “That’s it!” she announced when she woke up. “I am going to learn to fly!”

Olga was determined not to let anyone, or anything stop her. She found a low branch, ruffled her feathers, remembered everything her Mummy and Daddy had told her and prepared to fly. “Olga!” shouted Oscar, “Do you want to come and play?” “No thank you Oscar, I am learning to fly!” “Oh please” moaned Oscar. Olga put out her wing and said very firmly “I will play with you later”. Oscar sighed and said, “but I want to play now!”. Olga explained to Oscar that learning to fly was very tricky and that she had to concentrate very hard. Olga took a deep breath, spread her wings and jumped off the branch. She swooped and dived over the trees. “Wheeeeeee! I can fly” she shouted. “Wow!” shouted Oscar. “I want to learn to fly”.



Keep Growing - George the Giant

One day George decided to go for a walk to the park. As he kicked the leaves along the path, he spotted some seeds hiding under a colourful leaf. George bent down and collected the seeds, putting them in his pocket for later. After a lovely walk, George arrived home. He soon remembered about the seeds. George set out to plant them in some pots his mum had given him. Everyday George watered and cared for the seeds. Over the days and weeks, George watched as the seedlings grew. He took his time to water, talk to the plants and make sure they were getting plenty of sunlight. Gradually, flowers appeared and the seeds that George found turned into beautiful blooming flowers.



How do we promote the use of our Learning Muscles at Faringdon Infant School?

We encourage the use and development of our Learning Muscles across our school's curriculum – The intent statements for our whole school curriculum and each individual subject explains how each subject is taught supporting the development of the Learning Muscles.

We encourage and recognise the children's use of their Learning Muscles in a variety of ways. For example:

- Friday Celebration Assemblies
- Rewarding children with Learning Muscles Stickers
- Verbal praise and feedback
- Class displays/ posters to remind children of the Learning Muscles
- End of term celebrations with Learning Muscles Certificates

