

## BEHAVIOUR &amp; PRAISE · Y1–Y6

# Effort & Progress Awards

Five certificates that celebrate what matters

## Awards beat ability awards

The research case

- When we only reward high marks, we implicitly punish children who tried hard but didn't reach the top.
- Research by Carol Dweck shows that praising effort ('you worked really hard on that') produces more resilience than praising intelligence ('you're so clever').
- Children praised for effort try harder tasks. Children praised for ability avoid tasks they might fail.
- Awards that recognise progress — improving, persisting, helping others — reach pupils who would never win 'top of the class' awards.
- These five certificates are designed to be given to DIFFERENT pupils than your academic awards.

## Five certificates

Wording and intended recipients

- 1. MOST IMPROVED — 'This award goes to [Name] for making outstanding progress this [term/year]. Their hard work has made a real difference.'
- 2. BRILLIANT EFFORT — 'This award goes to [Name] for consistently giving their absolute best, even when the work was difficult.'
- 3. NEVER GIVE UP — 'This award goes to [Name] for showing remarkable persistence. When things got hard, they kept going.'



- 4. GROWTH MINDSET STAR — 'This award goes to [Name] for showing that mistakes are part of learning — and for never letting them stop them.'
- 5. KIND CLASSROOM CITIZEN — 'This award goes to [Name] for making our classroom a kinder, better place for everyone in it.'

