

# PERSEVERANCE

Perseverance is the ability and self control that pushes you to work through challenges. Perseverance means you are able to wait and work through difficulties, whether they have to do with your mind, your body, or your emotions.

## TALK ABOUT PERSEVERANCE TOGETHER

Very little that is really worthwhile in life can be achieved without **perseverance**. An athlete may train for years before they are ready to compete at the highest level. A musician must practice every day, sometimes for hours at a time, if they are to really master their instrument.

How would each family member rate themselves on a scale of 1—10 at **perseverance**?

Can you give an example of something you have achieved by determined **perseverance**?

Is there a skill that you think you could improve with **perseverance**?



Perseverance is hard, but it is important. It is possible to persevere through hard times because rather than destroying us it can build character.

In school this term, the children have been thinking about perseverance and what that means to them and others.

Why is perseverance so important to children? It is very important for children to develop as life is full of challenges...perseverance is what helps you get through the difficulties to get what you want.

### THINK TOGETHER ABOUT WORDS OF WISDOM

"If at first you don't succeed try, try and try again."

W.E. Hickson

## Read To



## THE WIDOW WHO NEVER GAVE

There was once a judge living in a town just like this one, said Jesus to the crowd of people who were listening to him and hanging on his every word.

This judge did not care much about God or justice. The crowd muttered to one another and smiled knowingly, they all knew judges like him!

A poor widow, called Sarah, lived in the same town. She was being treated badly by her neighbour who was making her life very difficult indeed. Sarah went to the judge to ask him to hear her case and give her justice.

At first the judge tried to ignore her. Silly old woman he thought. Why won't she leave me alone. Doesn't she realise that I have more important things to deal with?

But Sarah persevered. You are my only hope she told the judge. You must help me. Day after day she went to see him.

In the end, the judge was so

exasperated that he thought to himself I will never get a minutes peace unless I help this old woman.

Finally he let her explain to him the problems that she was facing and agreed that Sarah's neighbour was indeed behaving very badly and must be made to stop at once.

Sarah's perseverance paid off and eventually she got the justice she deserved.

So keep persevering and keep praying said Jesus to the crowd.

LUKE 18:1-8



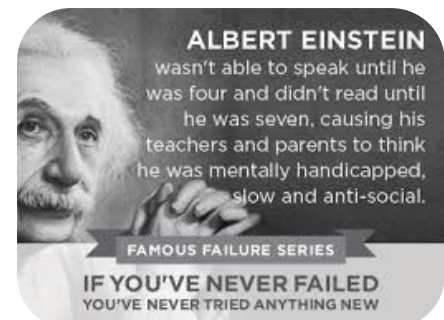
New International Version (NIV)



## FAMILY FOCUS

### The Perseverance Challenge

Ask each member of the family to write (on identical pieces of paper) a challenge that will require **perseverance** to complete. Fold the paper 4 times and place it in a bag with the others. Invite each person to place their hand into the bag (whilst looking the other way) and pick out a challenge which they have one week to complete. (Think carefully about the challenge you set and if possible make it a worthwhile and useful thing to do).



### ALBERT EINSTEIN

wasn't able to speak until he was four and didn't read until he was seven, causing his teachers and parents to think he was mentally handicapped, slow and anti-social.

FAMOUS FAILURE SERIES

IF YOU'VE NEVER FAILED YOU'VE NEVER TRIED ANYTHING NEW



# MISTAKES ARE PROOF THAT YOU ARE TRYING

## J.K. Rowling

In the summer of 1990, Joanne Rowling – better known as J.K. Rowling – was on a train from Manchester to London when suddenly an idea popped into her head.

"I saw Harry! I could see him very clearly - this scrawny little boy. And it was the most physical rush of excitement. I've never felt that physical reaction to anything about writing before."

14 years later, J.K. Rowling became the first billionaire author, ever!

But her journey from that train - when Harry Potter was a simple idea - to him being an international icon, was far from easy.

For the next 7 years of her life, J.K. Rowling was in a constant struggle. She had a child, followed by a messy divorce in Portugal. Then she moved to Edinburgh, Scotland and lived as poorly as you possibly could without actually being homeless.

She dealt with doubt, fear and even clinical depression. She was living a harsh life and was constantly told by both publishers and peers that children's books like Harry Potter simply were not "marketable" anymore.

"There were some days that I was so depressed that I could not even bring myself to write. And the only pleasure I found in life was when I was writing! So you can imagine just how depressed I was."

Yet despite her depression, despite her poverty, and despite her relatively small chance of success, J.K. Rowling didn't quit. She wrote and wrote and wrote until finally Harry Potter hit the shelves and became an international sensation. And turned J.K. Rowling into a billionaire.

**Practise, practise,  
practise makes perfect!**



## ☆ HALL OF FAME

### Prince George

Prince George had always been shy and had developed a stammer, which meant he could not speak for very long without struggling to say the words he wanted to say.

His elder brother, Edward, was very different. He was confident, loved to be the centre of attention and was destined to become King of England.

But soon after the coronation, King Edward announced that he was going to abdicate – to give up being king. His younger brother would now become king in his place. George was horrified! He felt sick with fright. Now he would be expected to deliver speeches and give radio broadcasts to millions! How would he be able to do this with his dreadful stammer? But George knew that it was his duty to serve his country.

He knew that he must overcome his fears and do his very best. He employed an Australian speech therapist to help him and with **perseverance** and great courage George was able to face the challenges ahead. When war was declared in 1939 King George gave a famous speech. He comforted and encouraged his people and won everyone's respect because they knew how brave he was being.



*Lean  
AND  
I will*



## HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE



Mosaics are one of the oldest ways to make art. People have been arranging tiny coloured pieces of glass or pottery for thousands of years to create beautiful designs. But the process is time consuming and needs lots of **perseverance**. This term's Home-School Challenge is to make a mosaic picture (no bigger than A3 – 29x42cm) using small pieces of coloured paper. The subject of your mosaic is up to you. It could be a pattern or a picture.

All the pictures will be displayed around school.



## FASCINATING FACTS

### Perseverance in the Natural World

Many birds show remarkable **perseverance** as they build their nests, piece by piece often in cold, wet and windy weather and at risk from predators.

The long-tailed tit is just one example. Weighing just 9g, this little bird takes 3 weeks or more to build a nest. The oval shaped nest is made from moss, cobwebs and hair, covered on the outside with lichen and lined with up to 2000 tiny feathers!

