



Honesty - I tell the whole truth and I don't leave out parts in order to hide something that I know is wrong.

In September, the children were introduced to our first character trait focus 'honesty'. In our first 'Character' assembly, Tijen shared the book 'The Empty Pot'. This is a story about a boy named Ping who grows the most magnificent flowers in China. When the Emperor decided that whoever could grow the biggest, most beautiful flower, would succeed him to the throne, Ping was sure that he would become emperor. However, when Ping was unable to grow a flower with the seed that he received, he had to make a choice.. Did he present the Emperor with an empty pot or did he show one that he'd grown earlier.. The Empty Pot contains an important lesson about patience, strength within yourself and most importantly honesty. You can watch a retelling of the story [here](#).

During the assembly, we discussed that honesty is about telling the truth. It is admitting mistakes even when you know someone might be angry or disappointed, and even when you really wish you hadn't done it. Honesty isn't about "not getting caught" because honest people do the right thing even when no one is looking.

It is important that children understand that knowing that somebody is honest helps us to believe what they say. Honesty builds trust which is important for being good friends.

Supporting at home -

Model it - Whether we like it or not, our child's eyes are always open and are always watching us. Your child looks to you to see how they should act. Be sure that you yourself are being honest in front of your child.

Discuss consequences - The natural consequence of lying is that people no longer view us as trustworthy. It only takes one lie to break a person's trust in us, and trust is very difficult to rebuild. Talk about people whose word can always be trusted. Discuss what we can learn from this.

Reward Honesty - It can be easy to deliver consequences for lies, but we don't always give praise for honest behaviour. Reward your child's honesty with lots of praise. Emphasise how courageous they are for telling the truth! Remember 'if they display it, say it'. Here is a [link](#) to a list of books you can share with your child at home.



Honesty Discussion Questions

- Why are people dishonest?
- How does it feel when someone lies to you?
- Are there ever times when it is okay to lie? Why?
- Is it easier to tell a lie or tell the truth?
- Is there a difference between telling the truth and tattling on someone?
- Do you know people who are honest? Who?