

Weekly Conversation Sparks

UKS2 | Years 5–6



Mindset Monday



Talk Tuesday



Wellbeing
Wednesday



Think Thursday



Feel-Good
Friday



Teacher guide

Each Spark takes around 2–5 minutes and needs no preparation.

A simple routine

- 1 Display the question and allow quiet thinking time.
- 2 Let pupils discuss their ideas with a partner.
- 3 Invite a few pupils to share with the class.
- 4 Use Talk Some More if you have extra time.

- Spark Starters are optional: pupils can adapt them or answer independently.
-  BUILD is this week's Talk Tactic: add to someone else's idea. The  symbol marks two BUILD starters on each daily slide.
- This week's Talk Role is  LISTENER: listen, remember and accurately share a peer's point. Rotate who demonstrates the role.
- Pupils may pass or speak generally; never require personal disclosures.

Think • Pair • Share

This Week’s Sparks

UKS2 • Example Week

DAY	QUESTION	CURRICULUM & CONTEXT LINKS
Mindset Monday	What helps you keep going when something is hard?	PSHE: resilience
Talk Tuesday	What makes someone good to talk to?	English: discussion; FBV: mutual respect
Wellbeing Wednesday	What helps you feel ready to learn?	PSHE: wellbeing
Think Thursday	Do you like surprises?	PSHE: emotions
Feel-Good Friday	How can a kind action change someone's day?	PSHE: kindness; FBV: mutual respect

This Week's Talk Tactic: BUILD

Add to someone else's idea to move the discussion forward.

Listen first

- Listen carefully to the previous speaker.
- Find an idea you can develop.
- Add something new.

Build on an idea

- I'd like to add to that by...
- Building on your point...
- Another example could be...

Make connections

- That connects to...
- We could take that further by...
- This also makes me think of...

What BUILD sounds like

- Acknowledge the first idea.
- Add a reason, example or connection.
- Help the conversation progress.

Teacher tip: The  symbol marks BUILD starters 4 and 5 on each daily Spark. Encourage pupils to add to a peer's idea, not just agree with it.

This Week's Talk Role: LISTENER

Listen carefully, remember a partner's idea and share it accurately.

Give full attention

- Face the speaker if comfortable.
- Let them finish their point.
- Focus on what they mean.

Remember the idea

- What was their main point?
- Which reason or example did they give?
- Can you explain it fairly?

Share it back

- My partner thinks that...
- Their reason was...
- Have I understood you correctly?

What good listening looks like

- Don't interrupt.
- Represent others' ideas accurately.
- Ask a question if unsure.

Teacher tip: Choose one or two pupils to model the LISTENER role during each Spark. Rotate the role throughout the week; everyone still practises listening.



What helps you keep going when something is hard?

Spark Starters

- I remain determined when...
- A useful way to overcome difficulty is...
- A setback can teach me...
- 🧱 Building on your point...
- 🧱 Another approach might be...

Talk Some More:

- How can you tell when to persevere or change approach?
- What can a setback teach you?



What makes someone good to talk to?

Spark Starters

- A worthwhile conversation depends on...
- Someone shows genuine interest when...
- Respectful disagreement sounds like...
- 🧱 Building on your idea...
- 🧱 Another perspective to consider is...

- Talk Some More:**
- How can a conversation include different viewpoints?
 - What makes disagreement productive?



What helps you feel ready to learn?

Spark Starters

- I learn most effectively when...
- A useful routine before learning is...
- When my attention drifts, I can...
- 🧱 Adding to your suggestion...
- 🧱 Another strategy could be...



- Talk Some More:**
- Which habits have the greatest effect on learning?
 - How can pupils help create a focused classroom?



Do you like surprises?

Spark Starters

- I appreciate surprises when...
- Uncertainty can feel difficult because...
- Advance notice matters when...
- 🧱 Building on your example...
- 🧱 Another consideration is...

- Talk Some More:**
- When is advance notice more considerate?
 - What makes a surprise thoughtful rather than stressful?



How can a kind action change someone's day?

Spark Starters

- A considerate action can change...
- Kindness can influence a group by...
- Sincere words matter because...
- 🧱 Building on that idea...
- 🧱 Another meaningful action is...



Talk Some More:

- How can kindness influence the culture of a class?
- Does kindness always need to be noticed?

Keep the Conversation Going

Discussion stems for clear, thoughtful responses

Explain your reasoning

- My view is... because...
- An example that supports this is...
- The strongest reason is...

Develop an idea

- Building on ___'s point...
- This connects to...
- A further consideration is...

Challenge respectfully

- I see this differently because...
- A possible weakness in that idea is...
- Could we also consider...?

Probe an idea

- What evidence supports that view?
- What might someone else argue?
- Has anything changed your thinking?

Teacher tip: Select stems that match the discussion. Encourage pupils to explain their reasoning and respond to ideas, rather than only stating an answer.