



This week's top tip relates to **homework**. Taken and adapted from:

https://www.parentkind.org.uk/for-parents/home-and-school/supporting-learning-at-home?utm_source=parentkind.org.uk&utm_medium=301#

Showing interest in your child's homework, whatever age they are, is important – even if it is for subjects you never did at school or feel a bit out of depth with. As your child gets older, you may feel less connected to their school experience. By showing interest in their homework, it not only shows you care but will also give you insight into what they are learning and how they are progressing. It builds connection, which ultimately will serve to give your child the self-esteem and confidence that will help them succeed.

☆ **Same time/same space**

It is best if you can, to set up a designated space for homework, wherever that may be; on the kitchen table, in your office, in their room.

- ☆ *Try to make it somewhere that is calm and uncluttered that your child knows is their spot for homework.*
- ☆ *Try to set a routine. Life never runs to plan but by and large if everyone knows homework is done when they get back from school, or after dinner, then it will soon become a habit that is stuck to.*
- ☆ *Discuss this with your child, when do they feel it will be the best time? If they help you decide, you'll find they will most likely cooperate better with the arrangement.*

☆ **Food for thought**

Children (and adults) can't focus if they are hungry or thirsty. Before your child gets going with homework it might be worth checking in with them to see if they are refreshed and ready to go after their school day.

☆ **Be open-minded**

Teaching practices change, as do curriculum and subjects, so how you would approach a task may not be the way your child has been taught. That's ok, it's their homework not yours, so whilst be supportive, don't try to take over or do it for them. If you have concerns, please talk to a member of staff. We are happy to help.

☆ **Connection**

Homework offers a good opportunity to spend time with your child. You may even find that your child opens up and wants to talk to you about their life in school, so you can gain insight into their relationships with their teachers and how they are feeling generally. So whilst the initial conversation is about the homework, it can trigger meaningful conversation about their life and concerns. This is invaluable to maintaining positive mental health.

☆ **Flags**

If it appears your child is really struggling with homework and not grasping the basic concepts, please raise it with their teacher or make an appointment to talk to Ms Tuckett. It may be that your child needs additional support and resources to help them overcome their difficulties.