

Message to parents – how you can support at home

SECONDARY

From Monday, all parents and carers are going to be directly involved in their child's education on a daily basis.

With children learning from home, you will be supporting their learning in ways that you may never have considered before.

This is a partnership between us at school and you at home. Together, we'll do it really well.

We all know that children learn best when there is someone taking an active involvement in what they are doing and is there to encourage and support them.

Parents can feel nervous about being able to help their children with the subjects they are studying. This is especially the case when subjects like maths, English and science get more difficult. Many parents feel this way, so don't worry, you are not alone!

You don't need to be an expert in any subject to support your child at home. Below are some of the most useful ways that parents can help their child's learning:

- Take an interest in what your child is working on. Ask questions, be curious, ask them to teach you about something.
- Look through your child's books and ask questions about what they have learnt that day, for example:
 - Can you explain that to me?
 - Can you give me some evidence for that?
 - Can you make that clearer for me?
 - What do you mean when you say?
- Ask questions about what they think about the films and television shows they are watching, the books they are reading, or the news.
- Offer a lot of praise and encouragement. Giving your child praise for the hard work they have put in is really important and can keep them going. Children really value this from their parents – even if they don't tell you that!
- Make sure your child has a good routine in place for completing work. It might help to have specific times for using technology, going outside, reading, and completing school-work. Children are used to the routine of the school day so it's okay to have this at home too. For younger children you could put together a timetable of activities together. For older students, you could let them work it out for themselves - but do get them to explain their thinking to you so that they're putting enough time into the right activities.
- Do please provide your child with a space where they can work and write as best you can. This is best somewhere quiet and where there are no distractions. This will be somewhere they will be spending a lot of time during the school week; so the more appropriate it is, the easier they will find it to work.

Every type of support you can offer your child is important. Where you have knowledge or an interest in a subject, it can be a great way to engage with your child.

But likewise, encouragement and awareness of what they are studying is equally as important – if not more so - than helping with the academic content.