

ST MARY MAGDALENE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

A GOOD LEARNER IS:

organised, well-behaved, focused, determined and keen



'Growing Together in Faith & Love'

Parents, here's how you can help your child.....

Our 5 top tips for learning

We would like your child to be:

1. Organised and ready to learn

Before starting in September, please practise the following to achieve independence:

- Get themselves dressed and undressed.
- Be able to go to the toilet, wipe their own bottom and flush the toilet.
- Be able to wash and dry their own hands – and know to use soap.
- Listen when they are spoken to and if possible look at the person to show that they are listening.
- Follow an instruction straight away.
- Visually recognise their own name (they do not need to be able to write it, but can pick it out, e.g., recognise their name peg).
- Playing games, sharing toys, taking turns and helping to tidy away.

Once at school, Parents can support this in the following ways:

In the mornings:

- Ensure that your child is punctual. At 8.40am staff will be on the playgrounds to welcome your child. The whistle for the start of the day goes at 8.50am.
- Encourage your child to carry their own belongings, take off and hang up their coat independently.
- Send in a named and freshly filled water bottle.
- Ensure your child wears the correct uniform and has PE kit in school every day.

In the evenings:

- Please read with your child every night and sign their reading record book.
- Set routines such as putting school bag together the night before and check that your child has the right things in their bag depending on the day, e.g., swimming kit, permission slips.
- Support your child with homework and help them to hand in things on time.
- Make sure that your child gets plenty of sleep and has an established bedtime routine.

As general points:

- Involve children in tidying up at home – in a fun and positive way.
- Name all belongings and check these every so often, perhaps monthly.
- Read newsletters and keep an eye on the school website.

2. Well behaved

Parents can support this in the following ways:

- Promote good manners – saying please and thank you, addressing people by name. In other words, lead by example. Your children look up to you and will copy you.
- Set a high standard and stick to it.
- Encourage your child to do as they are told, even if your child responds in a negative way. We know this is really hard, but if you say no, stick to it, otherwise your child learns that creating a fuss will enable them to get their own way. It's less wearing in the long run, although hard work in the short term.
- Give children lots of praise for good behaviour.
- Explain the benefits of good behaviour, based on respect for self and others rather than material rewards.

- Seek help if you feel behaviour is inhibiting performance at school. There are many sources of support, so please ask us if you feel we may be able to help or signpost you in the right direction.

3. Focused

Parents can support this in the following ways:

- Encourage your child to focus on something and not just flit from one activity to the next.
- Encourage your child to keep eye contact with you when you are talking to them.
- Encourage your child not to interrupt but to listen carefully and wait to speak.
- Play games/do activities together and encourage child to focus on the activity for a reasonable amount of time.
- Provide a quiet time to read with your child each day away from distractions like the television.

4. Determined to try their best and not give up

Parents can support this in the following ways:

- Encourage your child to stick at an activity (in and outside school).
- Help your child when they get stuck but encourage them not to give up.
- Promote the idea of trying your best, rather than being the best or comparing yourself to others, so that your child feels proud of his or her own personal achievements.
- Celebrate personal achievements, no matter how small.
- Set realistic targets for achievement/standards of behaviour and reward successes (preferably not in material ways).

5. Keen to learn

Parents can support this in the following ways:

- Be enthusiastic about learning new things.
- Try to foster a really positive attitude – learning is fun not a chore!
- Show your child that it is ok to make mistakes, as long as you learn from them.
- Ask your child “what did you learn at school today?” rather than “what did you do at school today?”
- Try to follow up topics being studied at school with activities at home, such as going to the library together, making a collage or doing some drawing/craft work together, looking at a website together...
- Find ways to apply what has been learned to other situations (e.g. If learning about weights, do some baking together and encourage your child to weigh the ingredients).
- Consider learning something new yourselves and set a good example.

Being a good learner in Reading at St Mary Magdalene Catholic Primary School

Remember to have fun and enjoy your reading!

If you do the following you will be a good learner in reading!

1	<p>Organised and ready to learn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have your book ready for reading in school• Always have your reading bag and reading record with you• Always use a bookmark to remember your page• Record pages you have read in your reading record• Set out your reading comprehension tasks clearly
2	<p>Well behaved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Change your books sensibly• Treat books with care and respect• Avoid distraction• Sit comfortably and still when you are reading• Listen to the other readers when working in a group• Ask questions if you don't understand• Follow instructions
3	<p>Focused</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use your finger to follow words• Concentrate on reading and enjoying your book – try not to get distracted• Read carefully, looking at punctuation and pausing in the right places• Follow the text when working in a group so that you understand what is happening in the book
4	<p>Determined to try their best and not give up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Practice phonemes and graphemes regularly – you want to do well• Practice your 'tricky' words• Use segmenting and blending skills to work out new words• If you don't understand a word look at the context and use a dictionary• Read carefully and correct your mistakes if it doesn't make sense• Read regularly and try different types of books or texts• Read to the end of a book, try not to give up – if you don't understand something – ask• Learn from your mistakes
5	<p>Keen to learn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read to an adult at home at least three times a week• Read regularly – at school, home, on holiday• Share a story/book with a friend or relative• Read other things – newspaper, comics, cereal boxes!• Are keen to read to the end of a book – you can't put it down!• Are keen to find out things from a book – new words, facts for your topic work• Ask questions if you don't understand• Use a dictionary to help understand new words• Share the books you have enjoyed with your friends – write a book review!• Visit the library regularly