

Dear Parents

We hope that you and your child are settling into a routine for working together. This week's advice will help you to understand how schools deal with common problems when working with children.

Think about what went well and what could be improved.

Sometimes, your child might work very well, but other sessions may be more difficult. Don't feel bad when it doesn't go so well. It can happen in school too. Teachers always think about what went well with lessons and what didn't so they can improve future sessions. Some sessions will always be more successful than others, but it is important to keep trying.

Show children the learning behaviour you want to see

Children don't always know how to behave to learn well. At school, teachers show children the behaviour that will help them to learn well.

This week we will think about a learning behaviour, **'Help and Encourage Others'**. Children will know this behaviour from school where they learn to work well with other children. They now need to understand how they can work well with you. Show them what you want them to do, so they understand. They can also help and encourage you by letting you know how you can best help them to learn. Talk with them about home learning.

Show your child what you want them to do, for example, to listen carefully, to think about the learning and to finish the task. Praise them when they do as you ask.

Every family will be slightly different in how they work together and help and encourage each other, but it is very important at this difficult time when we are all at home so much.

How to help children to work at home:

1. Have a routine and allow children to be comfortable.
2. Think about sessions and what went well.
3. Tasks shouldn't be too long or too difficult.
4. Talk to your child about how they learn and model behaviour that will help them to learn well.
5. Don't criticise, praise hard work and make it fun!

Praise hard work

It is important to praise the **effort** your child makes when they are working. Good learners work hard to get better at a skill and don't give up when it is difficult. When your child does a task well, praise them for working hard so they come to understand that their success is the result of their hard work.

Try not to complain when you don't think your child has worked well. Talk to them about why there was a problem and try to find something that will help.

Talk about your child's behaviour

If your child is not doing as you have asked, try not to tell them that they are 'naughty'. We don't want them to see themselves as a 'naughty' person who cannot change. Instead, discuss their **behaviour** with them, saying what you do or don't like ("I like the way you could tell me about what you had read," or "I see that you have stopped reading, but I would like you to read three more pages"). By doing this, they will begin to understand how you want them to behave and how they can do the right thing. All teachers know how important this is.

Praise and rewards are important

Children need praise and small rewards (a simple clap, or time playing a favourite game), so they feel valued when they do as you have asked. This way, they will be keen to repeat their good behaviour in the future.

We'd love our [@successforall](#) schools to share their home learning! Why not ask your parents to include us in your Tweets?



Home Learning Advice – Wings Years 2-6

No: 3 - Non-Fiction



Why are you receiving this advice?

Your child uses a programme called Success for All (SfA) at school to learn to read and write. At each level of the Wings programme, children read real books. The following resources complement the books they will read back in school.

This time around we've chosen work on the same theme so your children can to do all the activities together and help each other! Or they can do some apart and then join together to do the writing task!

Before completing any tasks, as a family talk about what you already know about insects and minibeasts.

- Have a competition to name as many as you can!
- Talk about insects and minibeasts, discuss why they are important to us.

Wings 1 & 2

Read the text here and have a go at the questions at the end too! <https://freekidsbooks.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/FKB-Kids-Stories-Insects.pdf>
Then watch this clip then do the activity that goes with it. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z6882hv/articles/z9fkwmm>

Wings 3 – 4

Read the text here to develop your knowledge about insects.

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2019/05/minibeast-facts/>
And enjoy this one too!

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/homework-help/insects>

You can watch this for further information:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zkkc87h>

Wings 5

Use this more challenging website to find out about insects.

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/animals-and-nature/insects/>

This time we have a writing activity which everyone can do together! You can use the tips here to get started:

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/information-text>, this is a helpful site for parents to give information and here are some videos you can watch together.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DN4d76QP_MA

Free sites to learn more about animals and insects

LearnEnglish is a website from the British Council with a wide range of free helpful resources.

<https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/category/topics/bugs-and-insects>

This website is from *National Geographic*:

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/category/discover/animals/>

The BBC's Country File show has its own free website too! <https://www.countryfile.com/wildlife/insects-invertebrates/the-best-insect-websites/>

The Natural History Museum has downloadable guides and mobile apps to identify UK plants and animals.

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/take-part/identify-nature.html>

Questions for children after reading

Wings 1-2

1. What fact(s) did you enjoy learning about the most?
2. Would you like to read more books about this topic? Why?
3. What else would you like to learn about this topic?
4. What pictures or illustrations did you find interesting? Why?

Wings 3-5

1. What kind of research do you think the author had to do to write this text?
2. What words, phrases, or statements does the author use that caught your attention? Why? How did they make you feel? What did they make you think?
3. Were there any photographs, illustrations, charts, graphs, or diagrams that were important? Select two or three and show what you learned from them and explain why you believe each one was important.
4. Can you create an *Ideas Tree* about one insect or main topic? Use this to help: <http://www.successforall.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Idea-Tree.pdf>

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NB Always check the sites before your child visits them for content, suitability etc.