

Top Timetabling Tips!

- Add times to the timetable to fit in with your family routine if that helps you, but keep these flexible.
- In school, English and maths tasks tend to be completed in the morning, with afternoons given to topic work and creative activities.
- Build in reading time each day, and talk to children about their reading.
- Learning tasks can be short. In primary school, children are often only working independently for 30 minutes in a lesson, as there is usually input from the teacher, plus paired or group discussion.
- Younger children may only be able to work for 10-15 minutes independently, older children will be able to work for longer.
- Let your child continue with an activity if they are enjoying it and fully engaged.
- Build in time for breaks, lunch and free play.
- Using technology to help learning is OK. There are many apps that schools use, but try to include learning that does not require screens where you can.
- ‘Learning’ does not have to mean formal worksheets! Cooking, helping with household chores, telling stories using their toys, planting seeds, playing board games... all these and more definitely count as learning.
- Setting up personal projects about something your child is interested in can be really motivating. Perhaps they could research and make a book, PowerPoint or art project following their own interests – and then teach you what they’ve learnt.
- Encourage children to complete something creative each day (artwork, Lego models, making a den, baking and then decorating cakes, playdough etc.).
- Plan to spend some time outdoors each day if you can.
- Involve your children when planning their day so that they know what to expect and feel involved.

Above all, remember to be flexible – home and school will always be very different environments. The most important thing is to make learning fun and encourage your child to be independent and follow their interests where possible.