

# **Westminster Primary School**

## **Parent Booklet**



**A Good Learner is:**

**organised, well-behaved, focused, determined and keen.**

**Is Your Child a Good Learner? Here's a checklist:**

## 1. Organised and Ready to learn

- They come to school on time
- They have their equipment ready at the start of every lesson
- They have their PE kit in school ready for physical activities
- They do their homework and hand it in on time
- They tidy up their things and help others to do the same
- They think about the best ways to be organised and plan ahead
- They keep their tray tidy
- They try to find the answers by themselves before asking for help
- They get their things ready for school each day
- They ask for help if they need it
- They eat and drink to keep their brain healthy and ready to learn
- They go to bed when asked so that they get enough sleep

What can parents and key adults do to help?

- Help your child to set things out the night before for the day ahead
- Have a clear morning routine including a healthy breakfast
- Make sure your child is in their classroom between 8:45 and 8:55
- Talk with your child about the different foods they eat and the importance of drinking water
- Praise children for following routines, e.g. for tidying their toys away, getting ready for bed
- Promote good manners, e.g. waiting for people to finish speaking
- Encourage your child to hang up their own coat and bags
- Ensure PE kit is in school every day
- Know which days homework is set and help your child with this
- Read with your child, sign their reading record and ensure they have their book bag in each day
- Read the weekly newsletter and keep up to date with the school website

## 2. Well behaved

- They concentrate on their work
- They do as they are told first time
- They use kind words and actions
- They allow others to work without disturbance
- They walk in school
- They look after property and the environment
- They show others that they care about them
- They make sure it is fair for all team members
- They are polite at all times
- They do not fiddle or fidget
- They talk to people so that they understand their thoughts and feelings
- They sit quietly ready for assembly or visitors to show respect for themselves and others

What can parents and key adults do to help?

- Sign the home school agreement
- Know the school rules and support school staff in promoting good behaviour
- Promote good manners
- Be a good role model for your child
- Praise good behaviour
- Encourage your child to do as they are told
- Seek help if you feel behaviour is affecting your child's performance at school

## 3. Focused

- They sit still when expected or asked to do so
- They listen really carefully to adults and pupils
- They look at the person who is talking
- They do not interrupt when others are talking
- They concentrate on their work
- They talk quietly and do not shout
- They focus on the teacher, not anyone else when he or she is talking
- They concentrate on their own work and do not get distracted by other people or things
- They do the right thing at the right time

What can parents and key adults do to help?

- 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 your child to focus on the activity
- Provide a quiet time to read with your child away from distractions such as the television or computer

#### 4. Determined to try their best and not give up

- They always try really hard, even when the work is difficult
- They do their best and do not give in work that is not their best
- They try to finish their work on time
- They set themselves targets so that they are always improving
- They ask for help when they are stuck
- They keep practising and don't give up
- They do not get upset when they make a mistake, but listen to advice
- They learn from their mistakes and have another go
- They believe in themselves and persevere

What can parents and key adults do to help?

- 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

- They want to learn
- They want to be in school and make the most of all of the opportunities
- They start their work promptly
- They try to be in a good mood because this affects how they learn and how others around them learn
- They try to be confident by giving things a go, even if they are unsure
- They show that they are keen to participate in their lessons
- They think about their work and pick out what they have done well and how they can improve it
- They bring things in from home that they have done or found out to support their learning
- They try new things
- They go to clubs, either in school or outside of school, or both
- They ask questions (to get more information)
- They offer answers to fine tune their ideas
- They take pride in what they do
- They are ambitious
- They show interest in their work and their learning

What can parents and key adults do to help?

- Be enthusiastic about learning new things
- Try to foster a really positive attitude – learning is fun and prepares you for life
- 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?"
- Try to follow up topics being studied at school with activities at home, such as going to the library together, doing some drawing/craft work together, looking at a website together, bringing something to school to share, taking part in a physical activity
- 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