



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Dear Parent/Carer

Education begins at home – how you can help your child get on at school

With the start of a new term, I'd like to let you know what we at the Welsh Government are doing to improve our schools in Wales and how you can do your bit in helping your child get a head start in life.

I want your child to have the best possible education in schools which we're proud of. To make this happen we are working hard to make sure all children have the right reading skills and are confident with numbers to make the most of their time at school.

The new way we're teaching young people to read and use numbers and the tests that go with that will help teachers work with your child to ensure they reach their potential. To find out more about these changes visit www.learning.wales.gov.uk

These skills are very important as your child goes through primary and secondary school and beyond, and will be vital in helping them get the job they want in the future. That is why we're introducing new GCSEs in English, Maths and Welsh from September 2015, with more in the following year, to make sure your child has the skills employers tell us they are looking for.

You'd be amazed by how much you can do to help your child get on at school, by just doing little things.

For younger children you can help them with the building blocks for any good education by reading with them and helping them with their numbers by counting, adding and taking away or practising their times tables. The encouragement they get at home will help them build up confidence so they will enjoy school more.

When your child starts to take their crucial exams, your role is just as important. Talking to your child to reassure them and taking an interest in what they are doing will help them get through what can be a stressful time and will encourage them to do their best.

To help you help your child, we've launched a new campaign "Education begins at home" with tips and activities you can do at home to make sure your child gets on. Have a look at our Facebook page to see how you can get involved www.facebook.com/beginsathome

I want every child in Wales to reach their full potential. I hope you can help me by encouraging your child to do well at school – your support will make all the difference.

Huw Lewis, Minister for Education and Skills

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