

**PARENT GUIDE**

**A Helping Hand For Your Child**

**Helping with school life:**

- Join the PTA and get involved with fundraising to support our school
- Give constructive feedback to your child's school about what is working well, as well as things you feel that we could improve.

**Exciting things to do together:**

- There are lots of fun activities you can do as a family to help your child with their learning and to support the school curriculum
- There are lots of cheap or free things to do which support learning without the need for a book or a computer, for example:
  - Visit a museum or historical site
  - Walk in a woodland
  - Visit the library and choose a book
  - Plan a route using maps, compass or GPS
  - Look at the stars at night and find out about the planets
  - Go shopping and use real money
  - Plant seeds and watch them grow
  - Make a tent – indoors or out!
  - Search for mini beasts to go pond dipping
  - Make a model, picture or collage with everyday household items
  - Find time to sit together and think and talk.



## Help your child to be ready to learn every day!

This guide is based on the latest research about what helps children to succeed at school.

### Helping hand at home:

- Make sure your child attends school every day unless they are just too unwell to do so
- Make sure that your child is always on time for school and does not arrive late - a poor start to the day can affect the success of the whole day for your child
- Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, please make sure your child has a healthy breakfast before they come into school, or send them in good time to take part in our Breakfast Club (from 8am)
- Help your child to have all the equipment they need for learning (correct uniform, book bag, PE kit etc)
- Ask your child what they have learnt at school and take an interest in these topics
- If you are worried that your child is unhappy about something at school, come and talk to us
- Allow your child to help you with shopping, cooking and other jobs around the house
- Be patient when your child is helping you
- Make time for regular reading with your child including books, magazines, newspapers and online.

### Helping with homework:

- Provide a quiet place for your child to work
- Help your child develop a routine and set dedicated time aside
- Give encouragement and support to help your child complete their homework
- Help your child to learn the basics such as spellings and tables
- Take time to answer your child's questions and address their concerns.

### Helping your child to learn in and out of the home:

- Link your child's learning to family activities. Your child's teacher can give you ideas (or see the next page)
- Look for things in your local area that will help your child to learn such as nature reserves and museums
- Spend time playing outside and talk about the world around them
- Get to know what your child is learning and ask the school about it
- Take time to listen to your child and explain things carefully, developing their understanding and vocabulary.

### Helping hand at school:

- Offer to help out with education trips, visits and clubs when you can
- Ask your child's teacher how you can help in class eg with reading and practical activities
- Attend as many parents' meetings as you can especially ones that are about learning
- Come and learn alongside your child with termly learning projects
- If we offer family learning, try to get involved
- Donate items for projects.

### Helping with communication:

- You and Pensans School staff want the best for your child so don't be afraid to ask questions
- Read the information that Pensans School provides: newsletters, leaflets, emails texts or online
- Keep the school informed about family changes that might affect your child's learning, however small
- Respond promptly to school communications and let the school office know if you change your contact details.