



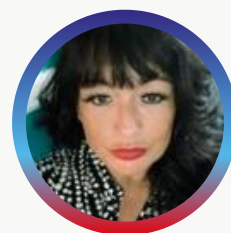
The Island Learning Trust Newsletter



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CEO MESSAGE

A message from our CEO, Debbie Wheeler



OUR TILT FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

World Book Day



PASTORAL NEWS

Latest information from our Pastoral team





MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

• • • **EASTER 2024** • • •



Welcome to The Island Learning Trust Spring Newsletter

Here we are 2/3rd of the way through the 2023/24 academic year! In only a few weeks, we will be back in to the round of National assessments: Y6 SATs, Y4 Multiplication Check, Y2 SATs, Y1 phonic screening, EYFS profile, then Sports' Days and then that will be that- yet, to date we have barely seen the sun! I do hope that it is about to put in an appearance for the Easter holiday to enable us all Easter fun indoors and out

We have had a great year to date with much to celebrate:

- Great themed learning- Science Week, World Book Day, in addition to our topic themes.
- Great in-year learning and strong progress in all schools
- In addition an Ofsted visit
- Minster in the top 1% of schools nationally for end of Y6 outcomes- Consistently high outcomes for years- top 1% of schools this year- 92% combined against 59% national- consistent hard work from the children, parents, team and leaders. Ultimately intelligent and robust leadership of care, nurture, behaviour and learning- in each classroom, year group and across the whole school. Great work Minster and Team TILT! Thank you all.



We have also received confirmation of significant building projects- Sunny Bank is on the School Rebuild Program - our original school building will be replaced.

And the Trust has successfully secured a fantastic £2.2m of funds for

- Boiler and heating distribution replacement at Minster
- Roof refurbishment & associated works at Minster
- Safeguarding and security improvements at Sunny Bank

This continues to show our Trust's commitment to ensuring our children and employees are working in conditions that are "the best they can be".

Whilst we have much to celebrate we also move forward with many changes looming:

Potentially a new government, a new Ofsted Chief Inspector, significant changes in Kent SEND and SEND funding - against a sea of uncertainty- we will hold firm and continue to deliver our core purpose - to ensure that every child, irrespective of ability, background or starting point fulfils their potential: to become the best learner, the best friend, the best citizen of the local and global community.

Have a wonderful Easter break and enjoy some quality rest and relaxation.



Whilst we were unsuccessful on the night, being shortlisted in itself was fantastic recognition of the hard work that has been performed by everyone in the Trust. In particular, it was amazing to hear that Maria Loughheed was just one of two shortlisted in her category - well done Maria!

We would like to offer our congratulations to all the winners on the night, it was wonderful to hear the amazing stories and hard work that other Trusts are performing. All of us are here doing what we love - ensuring our children can be "the best they can be" and the only way we can ensure that is to "be the best that WE can be".

Hopefully we can be more successful in the MAT Excellence Awards in June!



The Island Learning Trust

We are absolutely delighted to announce that the Trust has been successful with all 3 Condition Improvement Funding (CIF) 2024-25 bids! These were as follows:

Minster-in-Sheppey Primary School - Boiler and heating distribution replacement

Minster-in-Sheppey Primary School - Roof refurbishment & associated works

Sunny Bank Primary School - Safeguarding and security improvements

These projects will see a £2.2m investment into our Trust's estate including an injection from the Trust's own reserves.

This continues to show our Trust's commitment to ensuring our children and employees are working in conditions that are "the best they can be".

We're looking forward to a busy summer!

[#bethebestyoucanbe](#) [#estatesmanagement](#) [#capitalinvestment](#)





THE ISLAND LEARNING TRUST HAVE BEEN SHORTLISTED FOR TRUST EXECUTIVE TEAM OF THE YEAR

The MAT Excellence Awards are all about celebrating excellence and impact in school trusts.

The Island Learning Trust have been shortlisted for Trust Executive Team of the Year. This is an incredible achievement for The Island Learning Trust on its mission to ensure our children are 'the best they can be'.

"We are absolutely thrilled and honored to have been shortlisted in these awards which also follow our recent shortlisting at the National MAT Awards." says Debbie Wheeler, CEO at The Island Learning Trust. "The strides forward our Trust has made against great adversity in recent years has been exceptional and showcase our Trust values – Resilience, Optimism, Ambition and Responsibility."



An external advisor to our schools captured the essence of our Trust, our Trust Premium:

The Trust's vision and values are embedded across each school. The key question: what is in the best interests of our children?" drives the Trust and each school. A culture of high expectation and aspiration is modelled by senior leaders who are passionate about what pupils can achieve and determined to put in place strategies to achieve this.

Behaviour is a strength. Each school is calm, orderly, and purposeful. Pupils have a positive attitude to learning. Reading is given high priority and there is a determination that every pupil will learn to read with every opportunity provided for them to access rich texts to support their enjoyment of reading.

Care and attention have been given by the Trust in maintaining school accommodation to a high standard. The schools are light, attractive places to learn and work. Classrooms are well resourced. This extends to the grounds and outdoor classrooms for the youngest pupils.



Moreover:

- All schools demonstrate improving outcomes at the end of KS2.
- Many indicators falling within the top 90-99 percentile for attainment and progress
- Full, broad, and balanced curriculum is in place- with high quality enrichment- Forest and Beach Schools, wide range of clubs on offer and specialist sports coaching
- Our schools must have a culture of wellbeing, characterised by connection, inclusion, purpose, safety, recognition, and development.
- Leaders who care about their team, nurture, and develop them making their wellness a priority.

In addition, Phil Reynolds has been shortlisted for CFO of the Year at the same awards.

"Phil is highly regarded within the Trust thanks to his passion, positivity and remarkable energy for life and doing good. He is solution focused, thriving on challenge and creative thinking." said Debbie.

Phil Reynolds responded "I am thrilled to be recognised but the recognition is a reflection of the whole team at the Trust who support me every day. So thank you to each and everyone one of you."

Award winners will be announced at Optimus Education's MAT Excellence Awards night on 27 June 2024.

Visit Our Website
www.tiltrust.org





LATEST NEWS

BUZZING WITH EXCITEMENT ON WORLD BOOK DAY

Pupils and staff celebrated the day being dressed as their favourite characters and what a merry sight it was! This year, books were selected so each year group could look at a story about the importance of being a Good Citizen and looking after our world.



Before we ventured into our stories, we all looked at a David Attenborough clip to share how many animal habitats are disappearing and how pollution is affecting world wildlife. We looked at some of the issues facing our planet and indeed, how we could help. The books we shared were: Somebody swallowed Stanley, Clem and Crab, One little bird, Charlie and Lola: Look after your planet, The journey home, Greta and the giants and There's a Rang-tan in my bedroom. Literacy work and artwork were produced linked to these inspiring, thought-provoking texts.

We shared a quote from Robert Swan, that 'The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it.' Our pupils truly have taken on the mantle that we all need to be the 'Best Citizen we can be'. Since sharing our stories, many pupils have captured their efforts at litter picking along our local seaside shores to tidy up our beach.

Throughout the day, we celebrated with a Masked Reader activity too, whereby staff disguised their voices whilst reading a story and the children needed to identify who it was. Lots of extremely surprised faces when some of the voices were revealed.

We also had fun with DEAR, so every time a bell was rung, everybody needed to Drop Everything And Read! You can imagine the exhilaration this promoted.

Quizzing competitions within year teams equally prompted lots of fun and enjoyment, with a class in each year group being crowned champions.

Hopefully, both staff and pupils will reflect on our 2024 World Book Day with delight and an eagerness for next years event.

Celebrating with

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**



Celebrating with

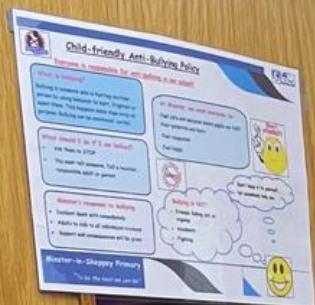
WORLD

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DAY[®]

GALLERY





MINSTER MAGIC HAS BEEN RECOGNISED AGAIN!



5 February 2024

Dear Mr Zetter, Dear Mr Lewis,

I would like to congratulate you, your staff and your pupils on the very high standard of achievement demonstrated in the reading, writing and mathematics Key Stage 2 assessment last year.

Your school's results, as published on 14 December, show that 92 per cent of your pupils reached or exceeded the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics at the end of Key stage 2. This means that for achievement in reading, writing and mathematics, Minster in Sheppey Primary School is in the top 1 per cent of primary schools in the country.

The government wants to ensure that every child has the fluency in reading, writing and mathematics necessary to prepare them for a successful secondary education and beyond, which is why I was delighted to see your results.

Thank you for your work in continuing the drive towards higher academic standards, and congratulations again to you and your staff for your commitment and success.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'D. Hinds'.

Damian Hinds
Minister for Schools

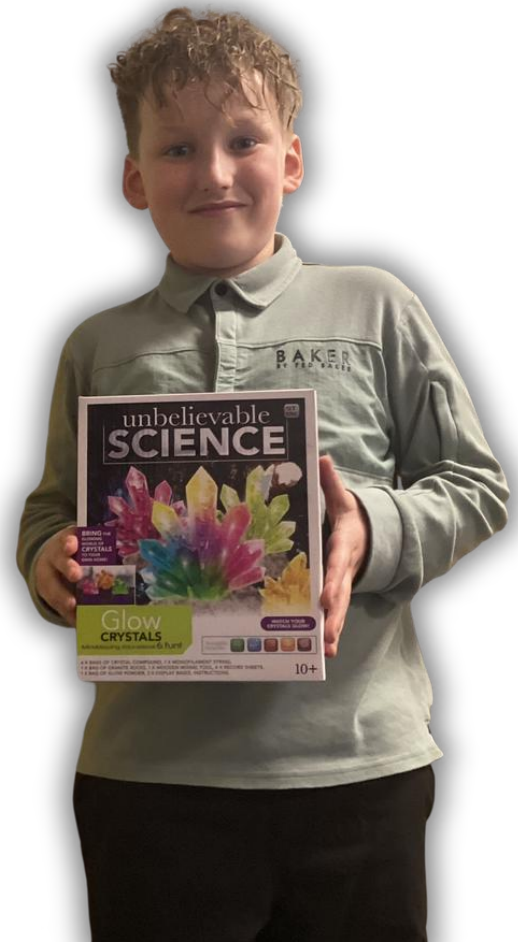
Science Week

Across the week the 11th to 15th March, Minster-in-Sheppey Primary school celebrated Science Week. This year marked the 30th anniversary of this annual week aimed at promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics in schools (STEM). The theme this year was time and chosen because time is key to many discoveries in science.

Across the week, the pupils engaged in a range of STEM activities, with each year group having the opportunity to work with Research Scientist and Museum Educator, Mandy Pattison. Mandy devised an unique scientific enquiry for each year group linked to both the theme of time and their own Science Scheme of Learning. Year 5 explored forces creating hovercrafts, helicopters and elastic band powered boats, Year 6 looked at Charles Darwin and Mary Anning Whilst Year 3 made water clocks.

At the end of the week a school-based Science Fair took place with all pupils being invited to create a STEM piece of learning created at home. Many wonderful entries were submitted across all year groups.

To finish the week the winners from all of our schools came together with overall Trust winners being declared.



Leading Parent Partnership Award

On 1st February, Minster-in-Sheppey Primary school undertook their reassessment award for the LPPA.

The reassessment process involved, the assessor Malcolm Goddard speaking to pupils, parents, governors and staff about arrange of home-school links including school to parent communication, transition and the promotion of parents supporting their children's learning and developing their own learning.



A paper-based portfolio and presentation were also shared, highlighting the progress the school had made since the original assessment in 2021. The reassessment was a positive experience and Malcolm noted that: 'There is a real sense of community and belonging which extends to all stakeholders and a shared sense of purpose set out in the school's vision to "Be the best that we can be" for the whole school community.

Real, genuine and open communication between home and school were cited as a real strength by teachers and parents and provide a supportive, joined up framework for pupils to maximise their potential supported and challenged by parents and teachers working together for the child.'



LATEST NEWS

IGNITING IMAGINATIONS FOR WORLD BOOK WEEK

We had the BEST time celebrating World Book Day with 2 days packed full of fun activities! From a cosy Bedtime Read to a bustling Book Cafe, we couldn't get enough of all things literature. Stop and Read, Book Reviews, and even dressing up - this was a celebration to remember!

Thanks to Andrea from Nickel Books for making sure every child could buy a new book from the special range, using their book tokens. And she even stayed after school for parents to browse and buy books too.

Celebrating with

WORLD
BOOK
DAY
GALLERY





LATEST NEWS

MICHAEL MORPURGO ENGAGES IN LITERARY CELEBRATION!

Book Week at Halfway was an amazing week! Highlights included our whole school book - Flotsam, a reading competition and our dress up day but the pinnacle was a session attended by our Year 3 and 4 students where they got to have time with Michael Morpurgo online and ask him questions about his writing, his passions and his charity work! Our pupils were inspired by his passion... and that is why he is one of our favourite authors!



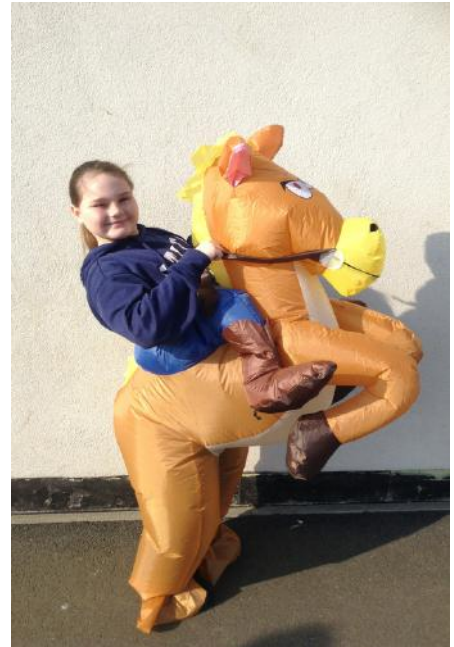
Celebrating with

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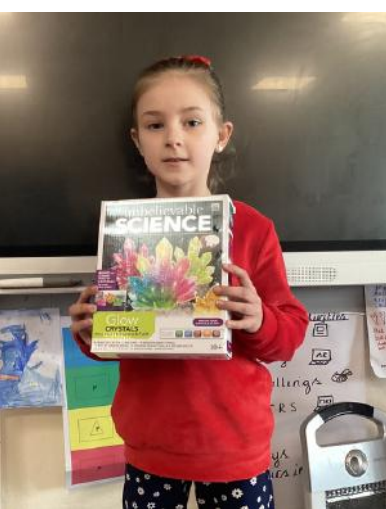




LATEST NEWS

TRUST YOUNG SCIENTISTS

What a fantastic end to Science Week with the Island Learning Trust's Science Fair. Sunny Bank, Halfway Houses and Minster Primary Schools have all completed science projects at home where the winners of each schools have come together to find an overall Trust Young Scientist in Reception, Year 1 & 2, Year 3 & 4, Year 5 & 6





SUPPORT



SUCCESS ON THE SPECTRUM

This five-part course takes place over five morning sessions and is suitable for parents and carers of school aged children with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC). The course aims to deepen delegates' understanding of the diagnosis of ASC and to provide effective strategies for school age children and their families. Participants will meet other parents and carers and will share experiences in a supportive atmosphere.

This course starts on 25th April 2024 and is £5.00 per participant.

SLEEP SUPPORT

Sleep problems can be a persistent and severe problem for children and young people. Improved sleep can lead to reduced stress within the family and improved educational outcomes for the young person.

This half-day workshop will:

- Introduce participants to a range of sleep problems in children and young people with additional support needs
- Identify possible causes of sleep difficulties
- Consider behavioural interventions to improve them

This half-day workshop is on 21st May and is £5 per participant.

For further information or to make a booking, please contact MIDAS Administrative Assistant on 01795 477788 (option 6) or via email to: MIDAS@meadowfield.kent.sch.uk



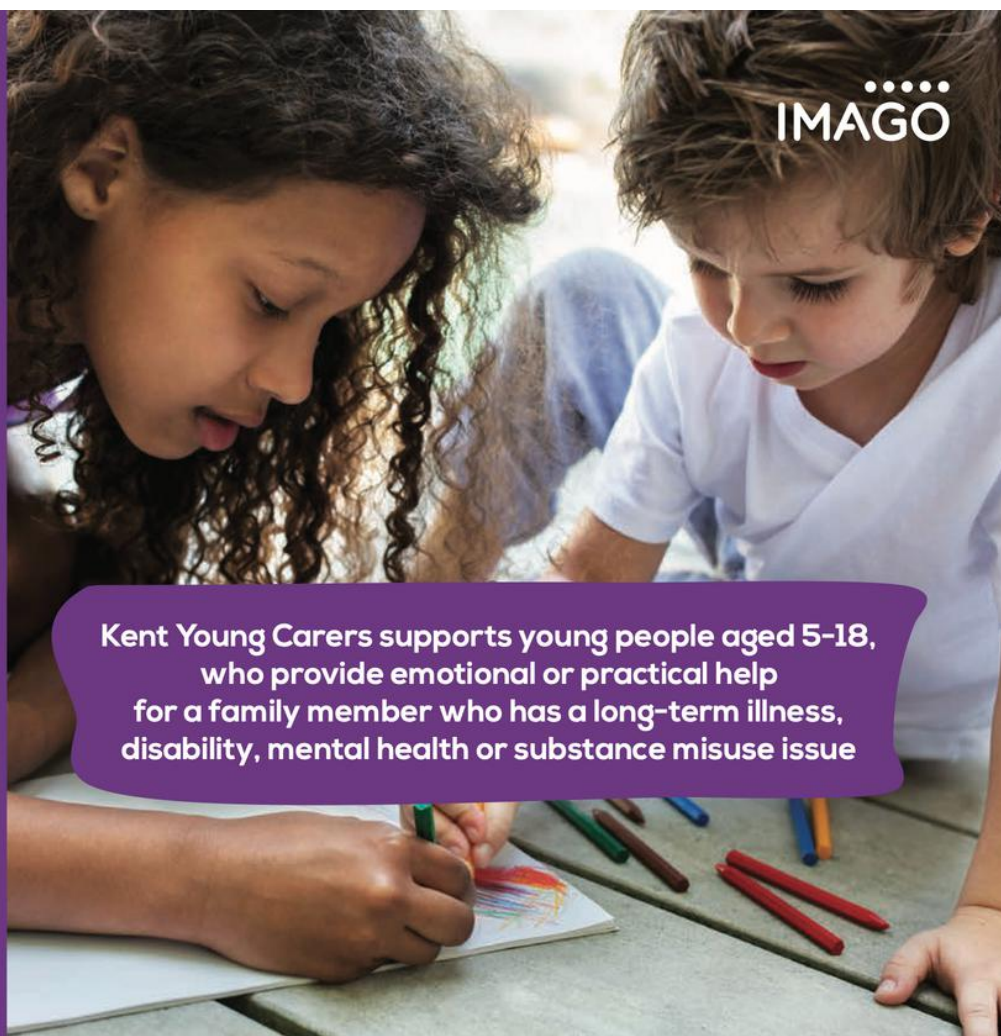
To get involved, you can refer via our website or scan the QR Code below:
www.imago.community



For further information, please contact our Hub:

youngcarers@imago.community
0300 111 1110

Kent Young Carers is a service of Imago Community.
Registered charity number 1108388



IMAGO

Kent Young Carers supports young people aged 5-18, who provide emotional or practical help for a family member who has a long-term illness, disability, mental health or substance misuse issue

There are over 10,000 Young Carers in Kent and according to BBC research there could be another 30,000 hidden Young Carers! It is important that Young Carers know that they are not alone in their caring role.

Kent Young Carers can offer support by promoting positive wellbeing through a variety of activities, workshops and respite. Working with school staff and other professionals, they aim to ensure Young Carers have access to the support they need and know they are not alone.

Young Carers provide unpaid care for a family member or friend with an illness, disability, mental health issue, or addiction. They support the cared-for and other family members with practical tasks, physical care, and emotional support, whilst at the same time trying to live their own life.

KYC works with schools, communities, and statutory and voluntary agencies to identify hidden young carers. Following assessment, KYC offer a range of short-term interventions including signposting, one-to-one support, in school support and workshops.

If you think your child maybe a Young Carer please talk to your schools Family Liaison Officer or contact Kent Young Carers.

Phone 0300 111 1110

Email youngcarers@imago.community

What does caring look like for you?



"I help my Mum get dressed because she can't do it herself"

"My brothers autism means he gets angry"

"I check on my sister because she is sad a lot of the time"

"I give my Dad medicine because he is poorly"

If you think you might be a Young Carer, talk to **Family Liaison Officer** to find out how our school can support **you**

Not sure how you're going to entertain your kids this Easter? Well, we've got you covered.

Easter Baking

No matter if you're a baking novice or the next Mary Berry, Easter baking is a cheap and easy way to entertain the whole family. From simple cornflake nest cakes and decorating Easter cookies to whipping up hot cross buns, there are plenty of options for all skill levels.

Take a trip to the park with so many free public parks out there, you can make the most of sunny weather (fingers crossed) with a trip to your local swings. It's free and easy to arrange – what's not to love?

Easter Crafts

If your children love to get creative, spending a few hours making Easter cards for family and friends can be a great way to keep them occupied. There are lots of free printable colouring sheets online as well.

Scavenger Hunt

Your kids will love doing a scavenger hunt for Easter! There are lots of free printable scavenger hunt clue cards online. No printer? You could write out the clues on paper!



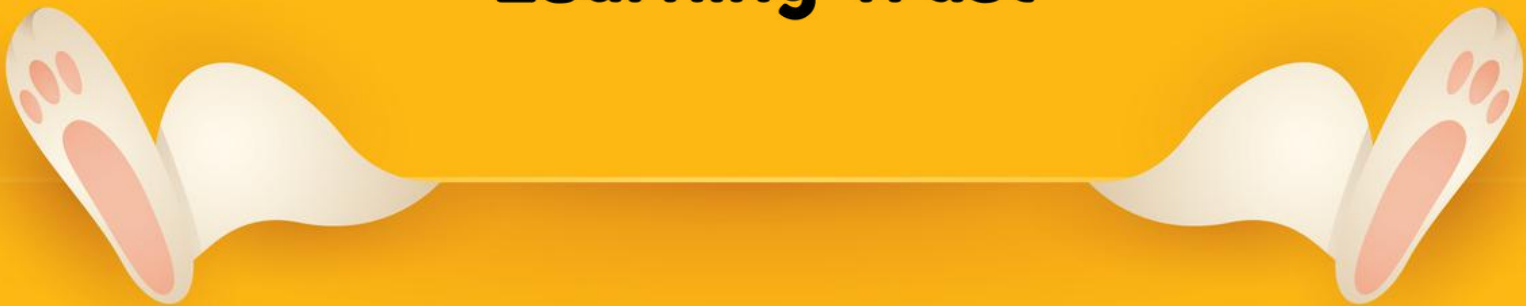
**HAPPY
EASTER**



Have a great Easter!



**The Island
Learning Trust**



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

DEVELOPING HEALTHY SLEEP PATTERNS

Quality sleep is paramount for wellbeing as it impacts our cognitive function, emotional balance and overall health. A World Health Organisation study highlighted that 44% of young people reported difficulty sleeping – potentially affecting their mood, concentration and immune system. Our guide offers expert tips for helping children to sleep more healthily.

1 MINDFUL TECH USE



Encourage a balanced approach to screen time. While phones, laptops, tablets and so on can serve as a helpful means of stress relief, it's advisable to minimise their use right before bed. These devices can keep the mind racing long after they're switched off, impacting how easily and how well a person can sleep.

2 EFFECTIVE SLEEP PRACTICES



Offer practical advice on reinforcing certain habits that have a positive influence on sleeping patterns. Children could start keeping a diary which they add to each evening, for example – or they could use up excess energy by exercising during the day.

3 HYDRATION HABITS



Underline the importance of drinking plenty of water throughout the day, while limiting drinks close to bedtime to prevent disruptions during the night: it's a lot harder to switch off if you keep needing to get out of bed for the toilet. Avoiding caffeinated drinks later in the day also allows the body and brain to slow down naturally, without any chemicals firing them back up.

4 CONSISTENT BEDTIME SCHEDULE



Assist children in developing consistent bedtime routines that tell the body it's time to wind down, promoting a more relaxed state. Establish specific activities for young ones right before going to bed – such as brushing their teeth – to set up an association between that action and falling asleep.

5 OPTIMAL SLEEP ENVIRONMENT



Ensure that the bedroom is comfortable, dark and free from distractions, fostering an ideal space for quality rest. The room's temperature should also be suitable for sleeping – that is, not too hot and not too cold – while rooms should be kept as tidy and free of clutter as possible.

6 RELAXING EVENING ACTIVITIES



Recommend activities that have a calming effect on the mind – such as reading or gentle stretching – in the lead up to bedtime, to prepare the mind for a peaceful night's sleep. Doing something quiet, relaxing and low intensity signals to the brain that it's time to rest and makes falling asleep much easier.

7 PRIORITISING ADEQUATE SLEEP



Emphasise the crucial role of sleep in maintaining physical and emotional wellbeing. It's especially important to sustain a healthy sleep pattern during challenging and intensive periods in our lives: during the exam season for children and young people, for instance.

8 NUTRITIONAL BALANCE



Highlight the significance of a healthy, balanced diet – and its role in establishing a more consistent sleep pattern. Try to lean towards preparing meals with plenty of fruit and vegetables, served in reasonable portion sizes: not only is this a lot healthier, but it also reduces the chances of feeling too full to be comfortable in bed.

9 PARENTAL SUPPORT



Parents and carers, of course, are uniquely situated to support their children in establishing and maintaining healthy sleeping habits. Parents can review their own sleep habits (incorporating anything from this list that they don't do already) to model a balanced bedtime routine and reinforce the importance of self-care.

10 MILITARY SLEEP METHOD



Look up 'the military sleep method': it's a technique for falling asleep quickly, which incorporates deep breathing exercises. You could encourage children to try it or even use it yourself. While it can take a good deal of practice to perfect, eventually it will start to feel natural – and the results are often extremely impressive!

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. Winner of the Social Enterprise UK: 'One to Watch' award, the charity provides training and support to education organisations and local authorities. This guide has been written by Adam Gillett – a learning and development specialist who is also Associate Vice-Principal for Personal Development at a large secondary school.

