



Ready to Learn Every Day Assembly Pack

This is a free assembly pack provided as part of the *Ready to Learn Every Day* campaign. You might choose to hold one assembly each day for five days or a weekly assembly over five weeks. Please use it in the way that suits your school and pupils.

There is also a PowerPoint assembly presentation to accompany this document if you choose to use it.

For more information about the *Ready to Learn Every Day* campaign, including details of our *Dressed Down and Ready to Learn* fundraising day, please contact us.

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Assembly 1

All aboard the Learning Bus!

Becoming a good learner is so important. Learning to read and write, learning to count and calculate, learning about our world and even learning about ourselves and others.

What else do we learn at school? (take some suggestions).

There's such a lot to learn the list would take a really long time to put it all down.

This is our Learning Bus....it is actually our school. We come to school to learn and there are some very easy ways that we can all get on board so that we can all learn together.

First stop - get there on time.

This is a story about Katy who missed her own birthday treat!

Has anyone got a birthday today / this week? (responses collected)

Birthdays are special and we celebrate them in lots of different ways.

I expect you are looking forward to all sorts of special things to happen as part of your celebrations.

A party with your family and friends

Presents

A special treat - like going to see a film, a trip to the zoo, or even a

What sort of birthday treats would you like to have?

The story today is about Katy. It was her birthday and she was going to be six years old.

She was so excited because her birthday this year was actually on a Saturday - not a school day and her mum said that because she wasn't working that day, they were going to go on a special adventure together. It would be a day out, with a picnic to somewhere really special.

Now Katy's family was very small - it was just her mum and her

Because Katy's mum couldn't drive, they travelled everywhere by bus or train....and, as you all know, buses and trains have a timetable that they have to keep to!

Katy couldn't wait for Saturday - and on the Friday night she took a long time to get to sleep. She tossed and turned - and got all tangled up in her duvet. Phew!

Katy really didn't feel like getting out of bed when the alarm went off at 7 o'clock.
Briiiiiinnnggg!!!!!!!

'Oh no! Just a few more minutes.....! I'm so tired.....'

Now, Katy had one really tricky problem that I forgot to tell you about. She hated getting up early in the morning. It didn't matter what day it was, it was always the same story.....

'Mmmmm it's so cosy and warm, I'll snuggle down and have another little snooze - just a few more minutes.'

Suddenly, as always happened her mum rushed in and shouted 'Kay-tee - wake up! We're going to be late.'

Today mum added 'Kay-tee - Happy Birthday- Wake up! We're going to be late. Come and eat your breakfast. Hurry up or the bus will be going without us!'

Katy stretched and yawned and rubbed her eyes. Of course it was her birthday - a special day and there would be presents!

So she finally scrambled out of bed and put on her dressing gown and slippers and went downstairs. Her mum was bustling about in the kitchen making breakfast.

'Come on Katy, sit down and eat up your breakfast. Your cards and presents are in the living room waiting for you. Happy birthday! Hurry up and we'll get ready for our special treat.'

Now, Katy had another really tricky problem that I forgot to tell you about. She ate her breakfast very, very slowly..... Because she always switched the television on and watched cartoons while she ate. And because her mum was always so busy getting ready for work, she wasn't always there to say no.

Katy took a spoonful of cereal and sat there munching slowly - it was one of her favourite cartoons (.....)

And before long she was totally engrossed - and forgot about taking the next spoonful.

Suddenly, as always happened her mum rushed in and shouted, 'Kay-tee! Eat up. We're going to be late - the bus will be going without us!'

Katy took some more spoonfuls of cereal and drank her milk

Her mum said again, 'Kay-tee! Hurry up Go and get dressed..... We've got to get ready to catch the bus at half past eight - for your special birthday treat.'

You've only just got time to open one present now.....'

Katy went into the living room and sure enough there was a little pile of presents waiting for her. And a lovely birthday card from her mum.

She picked up a big box wrapped in sparkly paper. She hoped it was just what she wanted - it was the right shape and size.

Fantastic, it was just what she wanted.....a new game for her Nintendo!

She rushed back into the kitchen and hugged her mum round the waist. 'Thank you, thank you', she said.

Her mum popped a kiss on top of her head. 'Now off you go and get dressed - we don't want to miss the bus today. It's a special treat remember!'

Katy went up to her room.

Her mum had already made the bed and put all her clothes in a tidy pile on top. All Katy had to do was have a wash, clean her teeth and pop them on.

Now Katy had another tricky problem that I forgot to tell you about. She took ages to get dressed.

This was because she liked to play on her Nintendo and she had a lot of games that she liked to play.....and today she really wanted to try out Super Mario - her new game.

She switched on and was soon so involved in the game that she forgot that she was supposed to be getting dressed.

Meanwhile her mum was downstairs washing up after breakfast and rushing around getting their picnic lunch organised. Soon Mum had everything sorted and was waiting at the bottom of the stairs.

'Kay-tee -hurry up! Are you ready yet?' shouted her mum, 'the bus will be going without us!'

No reply.....so mum shouted up the stairs again.

'Kay-tee - hurry up! Are you ready yet? It's quarter past 8 - the bus will be going without us!'

But Katy hadn't even started to get herself ready.....she realised at the last minute that she had wasted the last half an hour. Desperately, she started to rush around washing, cleaning her teeth, dragging on her clothes.....but it took her another fifteen minutes before she ran down the stairs.

Mum was looking a bit fed up by now -

'Oh, Kay-tee', she said shaking her head, 'we'll never make it to the bus stop on time now.'

The special bus will be leaving without us. You are going to miss your birthday treat.'

Katy's eyes filled with tears.....'oh Mum, can't we just catch the next bus'

'No', said Mum, 'I'm afraid we can't do that this time. It was a special bus - a coach - and it was going to take us straight to the seaside. Now everyone else will have gone without us because you weren't ready.'

Katy was so upset, tears were trickling down her cheeks - she'd really spoiled her own birthday!

Her mum looked at her sadly.

'Oh dear. It's such a shame. You've really got to be on time to catch the bus. But I think I've got an idea. I'll get the bus timetable and see if there is a later bus - it might take us a bit longer, but we'll get there in the end.'

And that's exactly what they did. They caught a bus that left later in the morning - and eventually they arrived at the seaside. It took them much longer though and by the time they got there they had to rush their picnic, the beach was very crowded and the funfair had long queues for all the best rides.

Katy still enjoyed her birthday treat - but she learned a very important lessonher three tricky problems needed to be solved! No more watching television while she ate, no more playing computer games when she had to get dressed. And most important of all, she would get out of bed as soon as her mum called her.

You have to be on time to catch the bus, and Katy never wasted time again.

All aboard the Learning Bus - get there on time!

Assembly 2

All aboard the Learning Bus!

First stop - get there on time (especially when you have to catch a bus!)

Second stop - get a good night's sleep

Yawn.....

I'm sorry everyone, I had a late night last night and I'm a bit tired today,

What time did you go to bed?

Who goes to bed at 7 o' clock? (collect replies)

Why do we need a good night's sleep?

Yes, it helps our bodies to work well - and our brain to think well. It helps us to learn and work efficiently.

In this Assembly you'll find out about Chris who didn't get a good night's sleep and was too tired to play for his football team!

Peeeeeeep!

Mr. Jackson blew his whistle and shouted, ' Come on everyone, gather round.....well done! That was a really good training session and you've all worked very hard. I'm very pleased.

Tomorrow morning I'll put up a list on the sports board with the names of the team that will be playing on Saturday at the knockout tournament. I know you won't all be able to play this time, but don't worry - you are sure to have a chance of playing for the school team at some point this season - especially if you keep up this level of training.'

Chris trudged back to the changing rooms.

He'd been trying for the last year to be picked for the team. He'd been practising really hard - and hoped he'd done enough to be spotted by Mr Jackson.

He also wanted to make his dad feel proud of him.

Chris didn't see his dad every day. He lived with his mum and two little sisters, with her new partner David. He got to see his dad every other weekend - and that was fine, but sometimes his dad was just a bit busy with his new family. The twins were really good footballers - and they both played for their school team. Chris knew that his dad enjoyed football - he just wanted to be picked for the team so that he could make him feel proud of Chris too!

Chris went home and plonked himself on the sofa to watch a bit of TV. He had some homework to do, but he could do that after he'd eaten his tea.

Soon he was swallowed up by family life....his two little sisters were demanding that he should play with them in the back garden after tea. They were very fond of being chased - and their big brother was very much in demand.

Chris enjoyed playing with his sisters - but he wished they were a bit bigger - and they could play football. Now that would be fun!

He couldn't wait until the morning - to find out about whether he'd been picked or not.

Getting to sleep was really hard - Chris thought he was lucky, he had his own room because his little sisters shared. He had his own TV and computer - and once he'd done his homework, he often played on the computer until quite late. His mum was so busy looking after his sisters that she tended to leave him to sort himself out at bedtime. She sent him up to his room at the right time, but often didn't check on him until she went to bed herself. Chris was very quiet in his room, he had headphones so that he didn't disturb anyone else in the house and that meant that he was often quite late before he went to sleep.

Chris didn't realise that because he didn't get enough sleep, sometimes he was rather tired the next day. When he was tired, he didn't run as fast, think as quickly or act as promptly as he could.

The next day, there was the list. Chris looked down the list twice before he realised that his name was actually there!

Wow! He'd been picked! Brilliant.....he couldn't wait to tell his dad. The match was on Saturday - and this weekend he was with his mum....he'd have some real news to tell his dad next time he went there to stay!

The week passed in a blur. Chris was so excited - but every night he found it even harder to sleep....and by Friday he was exhausted.

Mr Jackson had a last minute coaching session on the Friday lunchtime and went over the tactics that they would use in the game.

Chris couldn't help it - he struggled, but eventually he gave the biggest yawn - just as Mr Jackson looked at him!

' Well Chris - I hope you're more alert tomorrow. I recommend an early night for you....we need everyone to be on their best. It's a knockout tournament and we'll be playing at least three matches which can be very tiring'.

Chris went home at the end of the day feeling really strange. He was very excited - but a bit worried too.

His mum sent him up to bed at the right time, but he lay in bed watching a DVD until really late.

In the morning, he felt as if his head was full of cotton wool!

Peeep! The match had started. Chris was playing in defence and it was his job to make sure that the other team didn't get close enough to goal to take a shot. He made a couple of very good tackles in the first half.....and heard Mr Jackson shout across the field, 'Well done, Chris - keep it up lad!'

It was a good first half and both teams were very evenly matched. Chris was kept very busy defending, running around marking his opponents - then just before half time, Chris's team scored a goal.

After a short break, it was all go again. Chris was kept running around and his legs began to feel like lumps of lead. He could feel himself slowing down and just couldn't seem to catch up with the other team when they had the ball. He felt like he was running through sand.

But they were lucky and in the end the score was 1-0 to Chris's team.

Chris sat down on the grass. Phew, this was really hard work!

But before he had fully recovered, off they went again to play their next match.

This one was much harder. Chris's opponent looked older, was much taller and could run and turn really quickly.

Chris just couldn't keep up with him - and after 10 minutes, a goal shot into the back of their net.

'Come on everyone, mark your men', shouted Mr Jackson.

It went from bad to worse...Chris knew that he wasn't playing well - he was so tired and just didn't have any energy at all. At half time, they were losing 4-1.

Mr Jackson came over. 'Right lads, I'm going to make a few changes. Chris, I'll pull you off this half and bring one of our substitutes on. You look a bit tired and I'm sure Amin would like to have a go out there.'

He patted Chris on the back - but Chris was still bitterly disappointed.

He sat down on the grass to watch the rest of the match. And sure enough, he could see that Amin was much faster and more agile. He really marked his man well and the other teams didn't manage to score any more goals. Eventually the score was 4-4..... It was a draw.

Because Chris was a fair sportsman, he went over to Amin at the end of the match, shook hands and congratulated him on playing so well.

'Thanks, Chris', said Amin, 'you played well in your first match as well'.

'I was just so tired I couldn't seem to move my legs'.

'What time do you go to bed then', said Amin, 'My mum makes me turn the light out at 8 o' clock.'

Well', said Chris, 'I go to bed at 8, but sometimes I don 't get to sleep until 10 or 11 o'clock.'

Amin laughed, 'Wow, that's so late. My mum is always going on about how important it is to get a good night's sleep. She says 'Early to bed, early to rise makes a man healthy wealthy and wise!' I get at least 10 hours sleep every day.'

Just at that moment, Mr. Jackson came over.

'Well boys, we need to win this next match in order to have a chance of going forward to the next tournament. We'll have to make sure we're playing the best team we've got'.

Chris put up his hand.

'Excuse me sir, I think that Amin should play this last match. He's much faster and he's playing better than me today.'

Mr Jackson smiled, 'Well, Chris - I can see that you'll make a good coach one day. I think that's probably the right decision.'

Chris smiled back ruefully,

'Thank you, sir. I've realised I need to get more regular sleep now so that I can be at my best to play well. But don't worry - I'll be challenging Amin for a place on the team next time!'

It was a hard lesson to learn. But Chris was a sensible lad - he began to turn his own light off a little earlier every night. And do you know, he woke up refreshed and ready to face every new day and every new challenge. He felt brighter, more alert - and not only did he have more energy for his football, all his other lessons and activities improved as well.

He became a regular member of the football team - and because of his fair and sensible approach - he was even made Captain for the last two matches of the season.

That was some really good news to share with his dad!

All aboard the Learning Bus - get a good night's sleep!

Assembly 3

All aboard the Learning Bus!

First stop - get there on time

Second stop - get a good night's sleep

Third stop - get a good breakfast every day - food is fuel!

This Assembly talks about Sabahat who didn't eat her breakfast and as a result was listless and couldn't concentrate on her writing.

Sabahat was such a helpful, kind girl. Everyone said so. Her teachers, the neighbours, her friends (and she had a lot of friends!), and most of all her family - especial her mum.

Sabahat was the oldest - she was 9. She had one brother, Arsalan who was in the infants and baby Malika who was just beginning to crawl.

Sabahat's dad was a plumber - he was always very busy - and sometimes he was called out at night when people had leaks or problems with their plumbing.

Sabahat's mum was different though - she had had an accident in the car when she was first married and now had to use a wheelchair all the time because she had damaged her back.

It made life just a bit difficult sometimes. But Sabahat loved her mum to bits - and more than anything she loved helping her mum. In fact Sabahat was a Young Carer and took on a lot of extra work as a result.

Sabahat would help with all the housework. She was really good at cleaning and looking after her brother and the baby. Because her mum found it difficult to move around, Sabahat became her hands and feet, fetching and carrying, lifting and moving - because she knew that her mum couldn't do it.

It became second nature for her to do the things her mum couldn't do.

'Thank you, Sabahat', said her mum as Sabahat laid the table for breakfast. Arsalan was just getting ready for school and Sabahat made his favourite breakfast - porridge. She used the microwave because it only took a few minutes, and she put some in a bowl for him and also put out a bowl for herself then poured a glass of milk. Finally, Sabahat picked up the baby and sat her in a highchair so that her mum could feed her.

Sabahat dashed upstairs to check that Arsalan was washed and dressed and made their beds.

Mornings were always very busy and by the time she'd finally got Arsalan ready, there wasn't any time for her to eat anything, so she scraped her cold porridge into the bin, quickly grabbed her school bag and kissed her mum before she set off down the pavement with Arsalan.

It wasn't far to walk. Breeze Street Primary School was only five minutes away - and only one road to cross.

Sabahat absolutely loved school. She loved all her teachers and she had lots and lots of friends. Remember I told you, she was so kind and helpful that everyone loved her too. She was a real 'Carer' in every sense of the word.

The problem was that no one seemed to notice that Sabahat was actually finding things quite difficult and getting more and more miserable inside as a result. She was so busy helping everyone else that she was not doing a very simple thing in the morning. She wasn't taking time to have a good breakfast - and she simply didn't have enough energy to work properly.

By break time Sabahat's tummy was rumbling and she was really looking forward to her lunch.

Now, after playtime it was Literacy. Sabahat loved stories, but she found reading a bit hard and whenever she had to write anything, she had to really concentrate on her spelling. She just didn't seem able to remember the spelling rules - even though she had done them over and over again.

Mrs. Brown was explaining to the class about the activity. They were going to do some writing that was also part of their History topic about the Romans. Sabahat listened carefully, and then put up her hand to help giving out the workbooks.

Then she sat down in her place and started to think about what she was going to write.

Mmmmm. The ideas just didn't seem to be there. She couldn't think how she could start - it was terrible.

Mrs. Brown was walking around the class helping when she noticed that Sabahat hadn't written anything down. 'Come on Sabahat, ' she said encouragingly, 'let's work out what you want to say'.

She sat down with Sabahat and helped her organise some planning notes. Sabahat worked slowly through her notes. The words just didn't seem to be there. She started a sentence and then couldn't think how to end it. By 12 o'clock, she'd only written half a page.

Mrs. Brown came round the class looking at everyone's work and collecting in the books. But when she came to Sabahat she shook her head. 'Oh dear, Sabahat, I think you'll have to stay behind with me for 10 minutes to try and catch up. This just isn't enough work - and I know you can do better. Right, boys and girls, off you go to lunch.'

Mrs. Brown went back to her desk with the books and started to look through them.

Sabahat sat in her seat with her head down. She felt really miserable and before she could stop it, a big tear ran down her nose and plopped on the page. It was followed by another....and soon she couldn't stop herself crying.

Mrs. Brown looked up and came over straight away.

'Oh dear, Sabahat. Whatever is the matter. It's not like you to be upset like this. Come and have a chat with me'.

Sabahat really liked Mrs. Brown and soon the story all came spilling out. And at the end, Sabahat confessed about how hungry she was because she hadn't had time for her own breakfast.

'Well, I am not surprised that you're finding it hard to work', said Mrs Brown, 'it's probably 18 hours since you had anything to eat! You've simply run out of fuel. Just like cars won't run without fuel, humans can't work without food. I understand how much you care for your mum, but you are too busy looking after everyone else and you've forgotten to look after yourself.

Let's start by putting in some fuel now! School dinners are always good healthy choices.

I'm also going to have a word with your mum. I know you enjoy helping her at home, but sometimes you must look after yourself as well. What would your mum do if you were ill just because you didn't bother to eat breakfast.'

Mrs. Brown took Sabahat down to the school hall and soon had her organised with a tray of food. Sabahat's friends made a space for her and soon she began to feel like her old self again.

In the afternoon, Sabahat could feel Mrs. Brown looking at her occasionally and knew that her teacher was just making sure that she as okay. It made Sabahat feel better now that she'd explained and shared her problem.

She was just a bit worried about her mum - how would she manage if Sabahat stopped helping?

At the end of the day, Sabahat collected her brother from his class and walked him home. She was allowed to take him through the park on the way home and a real treat for Arsalan was to be pushed on the swings.

'Higher, higher', he shouted. 'Come on Sabahat - right up to the sky!'

Sabahat smiled, Arsalan was having such a lot of fun. So she pushed him as hard as she could. He was almost helpless with giggles when she stopped and made no protest when she said it was time to go home.

As she opened the kitchen door, imagine Sabahat's surprise when she saw Mrs. Brown sitting at the kitchen table with a mug of tea in her hand. Her mum looked up and gave Sabahat a smile.

'Well, I'm sure your ears must have been burning because we've been talking about you quite a bit. Mrs. Brown tells me that you are so helpful at school and that you are trying very hard. But we've been thinking about how to find a way to make your life a bit easier. I didn't realise that you were so busy in the morning that you weren't eating any breakfast.

From now on, we're going to change our routine a little bit. And Mrs. Brown has been speaking with a special support group called Family Action. They help families like ours and I've been offered a little more help with the housework. Someone will come in every day now to make all the beds so that you don't have to do it. And from now on we're going to make sure that you get a proper breakfast every day.'

Sabahat went over to her mum and gave her a big hug. Everything was going to be alright and she didn't need to worry - they would all manage.

Sabahat smiled at Mrs. Brown.

'Thank you for helping,' she said, 'Would you like me to make you another cup of tea?'

Mrs. Brown and Sabahat's mum both started to laugh.

'You're doing it again, Sabahat, we both know how you love to help,' said Mrs. Brown,' but why don't you just sit down and let me make it!'

All aboard the Learning Bus - get a good breakfast every day

Assembly 4

All aboard the Learning Bus!

Fourth stop - follow the school code and family rules.

This is an assembly to talk about school rules and behaviour - link to the highway code for buses, bedtimes, how much television etc.

First stop : get there on time

Second stop: get a good night's sleep

Third stop: get a good breakfast

Fourth stop: follow the rules!

What rules do we have at school?

Collect answers.

And why do we need these rules?

Collect suggestions.

What do we call the rules that we use on the roads for drivers?

Can you imagine what would happen if we had no Highway Code for cars on the road! Chaos! Accidents!

Well this is a story about Jimmy. He was 8 years old and came from a very large family indeed. There was his mum and dad, and he had eight older brothers and sisters. The two oldest were very grown up and were now married and had left home. His oldest sister Tess had just had a little baby, so when the whole family were altogether, it meant that the house was absolutely full!

(Mum and dad made 2, they had 9 children, 2 in laws and 1 baby! That was 14 people altogether.)

He also had a lot of aunties, uncles and cousins. In fact, he wasn't sure how many people were in his family altogether. It seemed to go on forever!

Well, you can imagine how noisy the house could be - especially with everyone talking at the same time. Sometimes, when there was a family meal, Jimmy couldn't get anyone to hear what he wanted to say.

It meant that he often had to shout - even when it was just to ask one of his brothers to pass some food.

As he was the youngest, his older brothers and sisters petted him and made him feel that he was very special. That meant he mostly got his own way as well!

His mum and dad were a little bit older than his friends mums and dads too - but Jimmy was very happy and loved his big, noisy family. There was always something

happening, and people coming and going. Jimmy like to make them all laugh and would tell jokes and act the comedian.

He did the same sort of thing in his class at school too. Jimmy thought everything was a laugh and he could always think of something funny to say to make everyone else laugh too.

The problem was, this made his teachers a bit cross with him. Jimmy didn't follow the rules you see.

He never put his hand up.

He always shouted out.

He talked when he should be listening to his teacher.

And he made the other boys and girls laugh and get into trouble too!

He didn't think he was being naughty - he never hurt anyone or did anything too bad - Jimmy just thought he was entertaining.

Then one day, he got a real shock.

Mrs. Williams, their teacher had planned a class trip to a science museum and all the class were looking forward to it and getting really excited.

His teacher explained that the class would be working in their groups to face different science challenges. She talked to them about how important it was to work together as teams and that there would even be a prize for the best team!

Now Jimmy got on with everyone on his group table - and he was good at ideas and challenges. He just wasn't prepared for what happened next.

One of the girls who sat on his table, Chloe, whispered to her friend Parvana and quietly went up to her teacher. They had a quick word and the teacher shook her head. Jimmy heard her say quietly, ' No, Chloe, it wouldn't be fair to leave him out'.

Jimmy wondered what was going on.

Then he noticed that everyone on his table was avoiding his eye. He tried making a joke, but everyone kept their heads down and his teacher looked up and frowned at him.

Jimmy tried again, nudging Parvana, who sat next to him, but Parvana just looked at him and said, 'Shhhh! I want to finish my work'.

Jimmy was puzzled - usually they were all ready for a laugh, whatever was the matter?

At playtime, everyone rushed out as usual, but Mrs. Williams asked him to stay behind with her for a minute.

'Jimmy,' she said, 'I'd like to talk to you about the class trip next week. I'm afraid I'm having a problem including you with your group. I don't think you realise that sometimes your behaviour is causing your friends some problems. They really want to do well with the challenges that each team will have to do, but they don't think that you will be helpful.

I want you to think about how often you are disturbing their work.'
'But I'm good at ideas, Miss', he said, 'I only try to make them laugh a bit.'
Jimmy couldn't help it - but he felt very upset that they would even think about not wanting him in their group. He thought they were his friends.

'Yes,' said Mrs. Williams, 'you can make me smile too - but sometimes your timing is not quite right. It can stop everyone concentrating and thinking - and that makes learning harder. It makes it harder for you too. If you talk to someone when they are working, it stops their thoughts. When you shout out answers, it isn't fair to everyone else who wants to share their ideas.'

Jimmy sat and held his head down. He felt really miserable. He'd thought he had lots of friends, but just now it felt like he had none at all.

'Okay, Jimmy, I can see that you're unhappy - but it takes a brave person to understand that they might need to change their ways. I think you should try to be brave about this and try your very hardest to make your team respect your contributions to the challenge. That means taking it seriously and following some simple rules.'

Jimmy thought for a bit and carefully nodded his head.
'I want everyone to like me, so I'll give it a try'.

And that's exactly what he tried to do. He didn't say anything to his group, but he tried hard to remember the rules.

He didn't shout out - and put his hand up like everyone else.
He listened instead of chatting and trying to make everyone laugh.
He took turns instead of always trying to be first.

When it came to the school trip, he was just as excited as everyone else - and when the class were given their science challenges, he worked with his group to solve all the puzzles.



The team did really well and when the challenges were marked they came in 2nd and got a special mention from Mrs. Williams for their excellent teamwork. Everyone clapped and all his group were beaming at each other.

Jimmy just couldn't help it. 'Eureka!' he shouted and they all laughed.....even Mrs. Williams.

Jimmy learned an excellent lesson. He became a much better learner himself and became more considerate of all the others in his class as well.

All aboard the Learning Bus - follow the rules!

Assembly 5

Today is a special day where we have all come to school to support a charity called Family Action.

In fact, we've all Dressed Down Ready to Learn to celebrate how important our families are to us. Our families help us in so many ways - and one of the most important ways they can help is to make sure we all get aboard The Learning Bus.

All aboard the Learning Bus!

Becoming a good learner is so important. Learning to read and write, learning to count and calculate, learning about our world and also learning about ourselves and others.

What else do we learn at school? (take some suggestions).

What do you enjoy learning at school?

There's such a lot to learn the list would take a really long time to put it all down....and we might be here all day!

This is our Learning Bus (use picture or PowerPoint).....and it is going to take us on an exciting adventure where we learn these things every day.

Now, I'll let you into a secret this Learning Bus is actually our school!

We come to school to learn and there are some very easy ways that we can all get on board our bus so that we can all learn together.

Look at all the different bus stops where we need to get on our bus! We have been looking at these bus stops every day this week and we have to make sure that we can get on the bus at every single stop.

Let's have a look at them (use picture or PowerPoint))

Stop 1 - Get there on time. What does that really mean?

Well school starts at (go through your school's routine in the morning.)

And why is it so important to be there at the very start?

Take suggestions.

What does it feel like if you are late? Who is embarrassed if they have to come into the classroom or assembly after everyone else?

And how can **you** help your family to get to school on time? Are there any special things that you could do?

Take suggestions.

Stop 2 - Get a good night's sleep.

We all like to stay up late on some special occasions, but on school days we need to be able to concentrate in order to learn.

When we're tired what sort of things can happen?

Take suggestions.

Stop 3 - Make sure you have a good breakfast every day.

What happens when a car runs out of fuel? Well, the same thing happens when we don't start the day with a good healthy breakfast.

Food gives us the energy to be active learners.

I wonder who has got a favourite breakfast?

Take suggestions.

Stop 4 - Follow the rules.

What are the rules that we have in school to help us with our learning?

Take suggestions - e.g.

Hands up.

Ready to listen.

etc.

Routines are important in school so that we can all become good learners.

I expect you've also got some special family routines or rules at home.

Every family is different, and they come in all shapes and sizes.

(Optional recap:

In our stories this week we met some very different families.....Katy's mum was on her own - Chris's family lived in two different homes - Sabahat helped her mum who was in a wheelchair - and Jimmy had a very large family).

Some families face difficult challenges - and our special charity **Family Action** works to support families who might find themselves having problems.

These challenges might be to do with not having any money, suffering from mental health and learning difficulties, and problems caused by drinking too much alcohol and taking drugs.

Family Action believes that with the right kind of support, families can overcome their difficulties and give their children hope for a brighter future.

Here is a story about some work that Family Action has done with a family.

Nathan was so excited when his mum told him that he would soon have a new baby brother or sister. He actually hoped it would be a brother so that they would be able to play football together - but even when it turned out to be a new baby sister, he was still really pleased. After all, girls can be good football players too!

When his mum came back from the hospital with little Chloe, he couldn't believe how tiny she was. His mum let him hold her and he loved the warm milky, talcum-powdery smell of her. Mmmmmm.....she had such tiny fingers and she held on to his one finger with so much strength.

Nathan handed her back very carefully. She was very precious.

They had lots of visitors over the next weeks - all popping around to have their first look at little Chloe. It felt like one long celebration party.

After a few weeks, though, Nathan began to realise that his life had changed forever. Little Chloe could be very demanding - and she had a very demanding routine. Feeding, Burping, Changing, Washing, Nursing, Sleeping, Feeding, Burping, Changing, Washing, Nursing, Sleeping - and she seemed to do an enormous amount of crying. Especially at night!

Nathan's mum grew more and more tired and grumpy as the weeks went on. She didn't seem to want to listen to him when he chatted about what was happening at school. And when he was given a starring role in his class assembly, she didn't even turn up to watch him. She was too busy with Chloe.

Nathan was getting really fed up. He even wished Chloe wasn't there to spoil everything.

He felt left out at home because his mum seemed to be ignoring him, and he began to get grumpy himself. He fell out with his friends, didn't try as hard as he should at school - and because his mum was too tired to help him with his reading every night, he began to fall behind with everything.

Then one day he came home from school and found his dad was home early - and the doctor was there. His mum was upstairs 'having a lie down' and they both looked very serious.

His dad was cuddling Chloe.

They told him that his mum was suffering from an illness called post-natal depression - which can sometimes happen when mums have a baby. It was making her feel really down. This was why Nathan had felt left out and miserable too - and he felt really upset that he hadn't been more understanding and helpful. After all, having a baby must be such hard work!!

The doctor was explaining that she was going to get in touch with a group called Family Action - to see what help they could give his mum.

Well, it turned out that Family Action could help. They introduced Nathan's mum to a lovely lady called Fran who just seemed to understand what the problem was. Fran came round to their house, helped with Chloe, chatted to mum - and really cheered her up. Just having someone to talk to seemed to be such a help for his mum. Fran became a very good friend. She even came with mum to watch Nathan in his next big show at school, which was a Christmas spectacular. He was so proud to see his mum smiling and clapping when he took his bow at the end. And Chloe slept all the way through it!

After the show, Nathan's mum went to talk to his teacher with Fran and Nathan picked Chloe up for a cuddle. She opened her eyes and smiled at him. She still smelled of milk and talcum powder. Mmmmm. She held onto his finger again, she was so strong! Nathan took back the thought he'd had about not wanting her in his family. She really was beautiful!

Nathan felt that he had his mum back, now that she had the extra support from Family Action. He was back on board the Learning Bus!

Family Action does vital and important work to support families - and today you have raised money to support their work. (Could announce how much has been raised?)

It's a wonderful way of trying to make sure that everyone gets the same opportunities - even when they have difficulties to overcome.

In our school we want everyone on our Learning Bus.

Let's celebrate our families today and work together to get everyone on board.

All aboard the Learning Bus!!

All aboard the Learning Bus Song

Sung to half a pound of tuppenny rice...

All aboard the Learning Bus
Let's get on together
First stop we must be on time
Whatever the weather!

We learn lots of things at school
How to read and write
But to get the best from us
We need an early night!

Food is fuel we all agree
We can't do our best without it
So every morning we must eat
A healthy nutritious breakfast!

All aboard the Learning Bus
Make sure you are with us
Follow the rules and you will be
Ever so conscientious!