

I asked Mr Bosco why Mum and Dad moan so much about bills.

Me having a good idea.



Perhaps you should try to find out yourself.

Note: When teachers ask you to find out something for yourself it is usually because:

- a) They don't know the answer.
- b) They are too busy!
- c) They need to get to the staffroom for a cup of tea!
- d) All three!

That's it!
I should find out myself!
I should do some research!

Research means finding out about things and that's something I'm good at!



Top researcher at work!

So when I got home I started my research straight away.



I put a sign on my door to keep Fred away.

First I made a list of everything I wanted to know and how I could find out.

- What do I want to find out?
1. What is a bill?
Mr Bosco told me.
 2. What does it look like?
Ask Mum and Dad to show me some.
 3. Why do Mum and Dad moan about bills?
Ask Mum and Dad when they are in a good mood.
 4. Why does Fred smell all the time?
I don't want to find out!

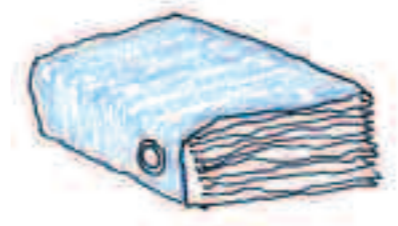
Then I asked Mum and Dad to show me what a bill looks like. They kept bills in lots of different places ...



... Mum's purse



... Dad's wallet



... a big folder



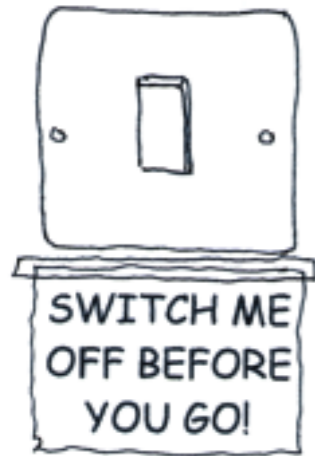
... the bin!

I wrote all the ideas down (even the ones I didn't like) and the next day I started to economise!

Instead of doing my homework in my room, I sat in the front room with Mum and Dad.



I left notes around the house to remind everyone to switch off things when we don't use them.



I started having showers instead of baths.



I thought of lots of ways for me and Fred to spend less money.



Trudi, Maria and I took turns at buying our favourite comic and sharing it.



I started to keep a list of what I spent my pocket money on ...

... and worked out how I could spend less money. This is called budgeting.

Pocket money - £5 a week
I spend
£2:50 on comics and magazines
£1:00 on sweets
£1:50 on pencils and groovy pens
£5:00

I told my Mum what I had found out.

If I take turns buying my comics with my friends, and only buy sweets once a week, you would only need to give me £3 a week!



Mum was shocked but happy!

After a few weeks we got used to economising. Even Fred tried to help.



Dad knocked out by the smell of Fred's clothes.

I kept a record of all the things we did to save money and put it in a folder.