



Helping Your Child with Reading

A guide for Parents and Carers

Our Aims

- To develop fluent, confident, enthusiastic readers.
- To develop a culture of book lovers in which children pick up a book for enjoyment.
- To continue to expand our library and reading resources so that we have additional material suitable for all abilities and covering a variety of different interests.
- To encourage pupils to try texts they would not normally choose.
- To put in place necessary interventions to help pupils who are underachieving.
- To liaise regularly with parents/carers through reading diary comments and parent evenings to ensure maximum support for the pupil.



Why Read?



Reading is a vital tool for learning and for life. Research shows that children who enjoy reading achieve better at school.

Helping children to make progress in reading is most successful when it is done in partnership between home and school. Any support you can give will improve your child's progress. We appreciate that parents and other adults are more than willing to offer this support, but may sometimes be unsure how to go about it. Therefore, this

booklet offers some tips and advice which we hope you will find useful.

Please remember, teachers are available to give advice whenever it's needed.

Reading in Key Stage 1

All children receive daily phonics sessions. During these sessions different phonemes (single units of sound) are taught within a five phase programme. The children do not move onto a new phase until their reading and writing show that they are confidently recognising and using the phonemes in the current phase.

In addition to this the Key Stage One pupil will experience story time, shared reading (reading a book together in a large group) and guided reading (reading in a small group where each child has a copy of the same text).

The children will have two books to read at home. These books are colour coded to ensure children are reading books at an appropriate level.



Reading in Key Stage 2

Children choose two books from their stage at a time- They are also encouraged to read other material and text types from home alongside their chosen books. This does not have to match their ability and can consist of newspapers, magazines, poetry books, comics, library books etc.

Once your child is a confident reader, listening to them read aloud will not always be appropriate. Discussing the content of the book, the language an author uses, predicting what may happen and looking at the structure of the text will support your child further with their understanding of the text.

Reading opportunities at school consists of:

- Guided Reading (reading in a small group where each child has a copy of the same text) with similar ability children
- Comprehension lessons
- Comprehension activities during guided reading sessions
- Whole class shared reading
- One to one reading
- Access to the school library
- Paired reading with another child
- Whole class stories
- Regular assessments of reading ability

Any children whose assessments identify gaps in their phonic knowledge will receive support to close those gaps.

Questions to ask- Before Reading

Identifying the Text Type

- What made you choose this book?
- What kind of text do you think this is?
- What makes you think that?

Prediction

- What do you think the book will be about?
- What makes you think that?
- What would you expect to find in this book?

Strategy Prompt

'What can you do when you get to a word you don't know'?

-For younger readers:

(sound out, blend, read on, use the pictures, look at the shape of the word)

-For more advanced readers:

(look for details that could help eg words within words, context clues within a sentence or paragraph)



Questions to Ask- While Reading

Decoding Strategies

- Can you split the word up into sounds?
- Can you blend the sounds together?
- Are there any smaller words inside that could help you?
- Would it help if you read the sentence again and missed the word out? Would that make sense?
- Can you chunk the word into syllables?
- Look at the picture. Does that help?

Encouraging Fluency

- What do these punctuation marks mean?
- How do you think the character might say that?
- Why is that in bold text? Capitals letters? Italic writing?
- Read that sentence again and use all of the punctuation to get more expression into your reading.

Making Predictions

- What do you think might happen next?
- Why?
- Why do you think that character did that?
- How do you think that character feels now?

Summarising

- Can you explain what is happening in the picture?
- In your own words, tell me what the main events are so far.

Questions to Ask- After Reading

Recalling Information

- What has happened so far in the story?
- What new information have you found out?
- Who are the main characters in the story?
- Whereabouts is the story set?
- How can you find the information you are looking for?

Discuss the Text

- What do you think about... ?
- What do you like about...?
- Were there any surprises?
- Have you learned anything new?

Develop Vocabulary

- Have you learned any new words in your reading today?
- Are there any words you are still unsure of?

Recording Reading

In your child's Home/ School book fill in the date, book title and write a short comment to encourage your child,



Positive Praise

All children respond well to praise and we are sure that you do this often. In order to help your child learn as much as possible from their reading sessions the advice and praise needs to be quite specific.

Encourage—(be specific)

- I noticed you were correcting yourself as you read—well done.
- Make sure you go back and read it again if it didn't make sense.
- You sounded out really well today—well done
- I liked the way you worked this word out. Can you explain how you did it?
- You were using fantastic expression today. It made it really good to listen to.

Learning to use phonic information:

- I like the way you noticed the s at the end of this word
- You sounded this word out—you sorted it on your own!

Learning to use the structure and meaning of language:

- That was clever—you made it sound right
- That made sense—well done
- I saw you checking the picture to make sure it made sense

Learning to read with fluency:

- You did some fast reading today,
- I like the way you read that smoothly,
- Great—you made it sound like talking.

- You made that exciting.
- You made it sound like Horrid Henry was talking,

Learning to self-correct and self-monitor:

- I like the way you noticed it didn't match.
- Well done—you checked this bit—it didn't make sense, did it?
- I love how you went back and tried again—you sorted it.



Useful Tips

As parents and carers you are the most influential person when it comes to helping your child progress with their reading. Here are some suggestions to try and make this a positive experience for both of you.

Choose the right time to read—a time when you are both relaxed and can enjoy it without distractions.

Make reading enjoyable—it's not a race and they should read books that they enjoy. This is vital.

Be positive—lots of praise and encouragement works wonders.

Success is the key—nothing will switch a child off reading more than a book that is too tricky. Keep them reading easier books and build up their confidence.

Regular practise—little and often is best. 10 to 15 minutes a day will make a huge difference.

Read to your child—all children love having stories read to them. You can model good expression and fluency and they will learn from this.

Talk about the books—there is much more to reading than just being able to read the words. Discuss the text. Use the questions on the previous pages to help you.

Finally, but most important, is to make reading FUN!

Websites

There are a great many websites that can support you with helping your child to progress in reading. Here are just a sample:

www.oxfordowl.co.uk

This site has parent support and e-books that your child can read online. There are quiz questions at the end of each story.

www.magickeys.com

This site has access to lots of free e-books that your child can read online.

www.phonicsplay.co.uk

A site packed with interactive phonics games,

www.ictgames.com

Interactive games linked to the school curriculum

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/wordsandpictures

Literacy resources for years 1,2 and 3.

We hope that the information provided in this leaflet will prove helpful to you in supporting your child's reading.

If you have any questions or concerns, or need further help and support, then please come into school and arrange to talk to your child's teacher

