

# Reading Guide



Reading with your child at home is a crucially important way to support their learning. Reading books together, reading to your child, hearing them read, discussing reading technique, stories, poems and non-fiction texts are all key ways to will help your child to develop into an able and accomplished reader and writer.

Remember that children need to read a variety of texts such as stories, reports, information texts, poems, etc. They also love being read to by adults, particularly if you can do the voices! If you show children you enjoy reading it will have a positive impact.

## Sharing a Book with your Child

Make sure your child has a comfortable, quiet place to sit. Distractions such as TV can make it difficult for children to concentrate. Give the book to your child for five minutes so they can look at it alone. This allows the child to investigate and explore the text and pictures independently before starting to read. Read the title together and ask them to tell you about the story and any questions they may have before beginning.

Remember talking about books is as important as reading them. Children need to have enthusiasm for texts so allow them to choose their own from the library as well as their school reading books.

## Reading Aloud

It is important that children are given the opportunity to read aloud to an adult as often as possible. It improves their decoding and listening skills. Help your child to sound out and blend any unfamiliar words. If they are still unsure, tell them the word and explain what it means. Then read the sentence again together. Remember to use praise a lot and tell them why they have done well i.e. "I really enjoyed listening to that sentence because you made it sound so exciting!"

## Helping your Child Read a Word

- Which letter phonemes (sounds) do you recognise? Can you blend them together?
- Does the word make sense? Read the sentence again to check.
- Is there another word that would make sense?
- Is it a word you know?
- Have you read the word before? Is it on another page?
- Are there any bits of the word you recognise?
- Miss out the word, say 'mmmm', finish the sentence. Then go back and work out what the word was.
- In a rhyming book, think of a word that rhymes.
- Use the first 1 or 2 sounds with another strategy
- Always go back and read the sentence again

Remember to keep continuously praising your child's achievements to help build their self-esteem and confidence.

If you feel you need more support with appropriate texts, find that your child is reluctant to read or is finding reading difficult please do not hesitate to arrange a meeting with your child's class teacher or Mrs K. Evans our English Lead.

# How can you make reading more fun?

## Pair Up

Create a simple memory matching pairs game with words on one set of cards and pictures on the other. Involve your child in creating the game in a way they will enjoy – this could be writing the words, drawing the pictures, or both! Raid the craft drawer for colourful supplies or help them to create the cards on the computer.

## Funny Voices

Change your voice to go with the characters and the action. You don't have to be an actor, but you can at least change your inflection for a livelier storytelling experience. Make sure you don't read too quickly, too. You don't want to sound like you're rushing to finish.

## Subtitles

Put the subtitles on your TV or on YouTube videos and encourage your child to read along while they watch.

## Location

Change where you read. You could try linking it to the genre of book you are about to read, e.g. books with a spooky theme could be read in the dark with a torch!

## Get Baking

Find a recipe designed for children and encourage your child to read the instructions – while they create a yummy treat!

## Act it Out

Get theatrical with how you read a book. Take turns reading a character. Or why not encourage your child to present their favourite part as a play to the family?

## Talk Talk Talk

Talk about print everywhere. Talk about written words you see in the world around you and respond with interest to your child's questions about words. Ask them to find a new word every time you go on an outing.

## X Marks the Spot

Do a treasure hunt where your child has to read the clues around the house/garden. Getting a small prize each time, such as a sweet/chocolate, can be a great motivator to keep on reading more clues! k about writing too.

## Games Night

Hold a family games night and explore board games which involve an element of reading, such as Trivial Pursuits.

Allow your child to be in control by being the question master! If some of the words are too tricky perhaps you can help them to make up some of their own questions – or make up their own quiz.