

# Reading

## How to help your child?



### Book Basics:

When sharing books with your child

- Discuss cover, title, author, blurb
- Encourage careful turning of pages front to back
- Ensure your child understands that text is read from left to right and from top to bottom across a single page.

### Reading at Home:

Make reading enjoyable and not rushed. Try to build it into your daily routine at a time that best suits you all.

Reading is not just about decoding words. It is important that your child can engage with text and talk about it:

You could discuss:

- the illustrations
- the characters and how they might be feeling
- the setting of the story
- the story sequence- what might happen next?
- the meaning of new words to extend vocabulary
- rhyming words and patterned language
- thought or speech bubbles or other text features

### Reading in the Environment:

Encourage your child to read road signs, posters, labels/ advertising in shops. Remember reading is a life skill and relates to **all** forms of printed text. Share your everyday reading experiences so your child begins to appreciate the importance of reading in everyday life. For some children reading becomes more meaningful when it has a definitive purpose.

### Getting Started:

The most successful readers are those who employ a range of strategies.

- A phonic approach- children break down words into their component parts and then reassemble them by blending together.
- Word recognition- children recognise common words by sight and are then able to recall them from visual memory.
- Picture clues- children look for clues in the picture to help them develop meaning from what has been read.
- Contextual clues- children use the meaning of the whole sentence to help identify tricky words and make sensible guesses.

### Reading Books and Word Bags:

All children will be given school reading books which will be closely matched to their developing reading level. There are a variety of different reading books that your child may bring home. Some may be picture and sound based and will encourage children to read graphemes, discuss pictures and listen for particular sounds. Other books will have words that are phonetically decodable and also words that are known as tricky words. It is important that children are able to segment words into their component sounds and then blend these sounds in order to read whole words. Your child's school books will help achieve this but home reading is also encouraged and celebrated so please feel free to use your home books alongside school books.

Alongside their reading books, your child will bring home a word bag which contains sight words also known as tricky words. The idea being that children will begin to recognise these

words from sight and learn them as whole words. These will adapt and change with more words being added as appropriate to your child's needs.

### **Using Word Bags:**

- Use little and often. Daily for 5 minutes at a time would be best.
- Spread out the word, read each one in turn and then ask your child to select a given word.
- Play games/ make silly sentences/ spot them in your child's reading books.
- For some children, it may be useful to practise saying and writing the words down.
- Revisit older words to keep them fresh in your child's minds and commit them to memory.

### **Reading Records:**

Please complete reading records each time you hear your child read. Word bags can count as a reading opportunity. Reading records allow us to know when new books are needed so please write in the record when your child has finished their books. Remember, home books are just as important too and can be recorded in your child's reading records. Your comments about any difficulties or successes are also really valuable.

### **How to support reading at home:**

- Regularly listen to your child and provide opportunities for them to read to you
- Read in a well-lit and comfortable space at a time that suits your all
- Be patient and positive- learning to read is difficult. Use the 3 P's (**Patience, Practice & Praise**)
- Encourage use of pure sounds and not letter names when sounding out a word
- Share books with family members- listening to a story can be just as powerful as reading one but a good balance is essential for good reading development.
- Ask questions to check children's understanding and go over things they don't understand.

### **FAQS**

#### **How often will my child read in school?**

*Our aim is that all children will read with a Teacher **or** Teaching Assistant weekly. If there is opportunity for additional reading, then we will do this and they may read with parent helpers also. Therefore, we ask that book bags are in school daily so we can utilise any opportunity.*

#### **Why haven't they moved up a stage yet when they can read more difficult books at home?**

*School books are allocated based on children's fluency and comprehension skills. Levels are regularly reviewed and changed when appropriate. We would continue to encourage wider reading at home as this will support children's overall reading development.*

#### **My child dislikes reading. How can I get them to read?**

*Allow children to read texts that are interesting to them and bring in small chunks of their school books. Wider reading should always be encouraged. Perhaps they could listen to part of the story and then read words, or phrases they know. You could build it up from a sentence each to a page each and so on. Remember to be patient and positive and discuss with your child's teacher if you need to.*

#### **Where can I get more information about phonics and supporting reading effectively?**

*Lots of information is available online but it can be overwhelming. There is fantastic support available at <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading/phonics-made-easy/> through information and short videos. Remember you can always speak to your child's class teacher.*