



Reading at Home: How to help!



'Jesus came to give life better than we ever dreamed of' (John 10:10)

How and what will your child read in school?

Your child will experience a variety of reading experiences at school, including:

- 4 x Reading Masters sessions each week where children are given the opportunity to develop their skills to aid their comprehension of a variety of different texts linked to their topics
- A high quality class reader which is read regularly
- Using a range of high quality texts (both fiction and non-fiction) during English lessons
- Opportunities to read books of their choosing
- Some children in Years 3 and 4 take part in an intervention programme called 'Read, Write Inc.' to develop their phonological awareness and help them to accurately decode. Some children in Years 5 and 6 will take part in a linked intervention called 'Read, Write, Inc Fresh Start' which has the same purpose but is designed to teach using themes more appropriate to Upper Key Stage 2.
- During reading opportunity in school, a focus will be given to ensuring fluency and understanding of the text.

Additionally, the children have access to:

- A well-stocked class library with a range of high quality, up-to date books to inspire the children
- A well-stocked library with the ability to borrow up to two books each using our 'Junior Librarian ' programme

Why is reading with my child important?

As a parent, you can play an important role in helping your child learn to read and develop their understanding of what they read.

Reading with your child can be a fun and really rewarding activity.

Parents can help their child with reading by showing how important it is and by finding ways to help their children enjoy reading.

Studies show that children who enjoy reading do much better at school therefore taking the time to talk to your children about the books they choose and listening to them reading aloud regularly can make all the difference.

Children need to understand why we read but they **need to experience the range of feelings that a book can create or the power that can be gained from accessing information!**

Reading should not only be confined to stories. Many children love reading comics, magazines, newspapers, information books and poetry. All of these reading activities should be encouraged.

Children in Key Stage 2 will all be at very different stages of development, but even for the most fluent readers there is a need for parental support.

How can I help my child?

- Find a quiet, relaxing place away from distractions such as TV
- Sit comfortably in good light and talk to your child about their book
- Read for about 10 minutes; a regular short time of quality is better than a long session which happens only occasionally
- Ask why they have chosen the book
- Talk about the cover and title and what the story might be about
- Ask them to tell you who wrote the book or point to the author
- Look at the pictures and ask them to tell you where the story takes place
- Try to be supportive and positive during the reading time
- Where possible wait for your child to decode words
- Encourage the use of clues such as the look/sound of the letters, what would make sense and the illustrations

Reading Diaries:

- These should be signed each time a child reads
- It is helpful to record what and which pages your child has read
- Comments about your child's reading can be a helpful form of communication between you and their class teacher

If your child gets 'stuck' on a word, you could:

- Let them read on so they can work out the word themselves from the context
- Point to a picture if it will help them guess the meaning
- Give them the first or last sounds to help them
- Read along with them then pause, prompt, praise if they get it right
- Read the word for them (especially if it is a Proper Name)
- When they are confident with sounds, let them sound out unknown words – break longer words down into syllables
- When a mistake is self-corrected or a previously unknown word is recognised, praise highly
- Encourage expressive reading by drawing attention to punctuation
- Help understanding by talking about the story or text – the setting, the plot, the characters
- Discuss the characters and the way they behave

- Talk about the kind of story it is (adventure, fantasy, science fiction, myth...)
- Encourage your child to refer to words and passages in the text to justify opinions