

West Road



School

Supporting your child's reading

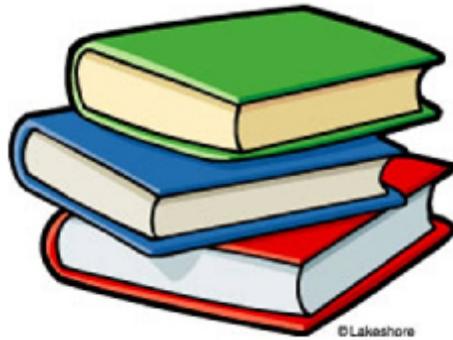
Information for Parents.



Why is reading so important?

Reading is a vital tool for learning and for life. Research shows that children who enjoy reading achieve better at school. Reading not only helps us to widen our knowledge and experiences but also allows us to increase our confidence in many aspects of our lives.

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 we offer some tips and advice which we hope you will find useful. Please remember, teachers are available to give advice whenever it's needed.



How do we teach reading in school?

In school we teach reading in a variety of ways.

In the Foundation stage and KS1 the children are 'Learning to read'.

In KS2 the children are 'Reading to learn'.

In order for children to become able and independent readers they need to have:

- Fluency - children who can read at a comfortable speed with appropriate expression.
- Accuracy - children who can 'decode' (sound out) words they are reading without interrupting the flow.
- Understanding - children who can follow the content of what they read.
- Enjoyment and confidence - children who will become lifelong readers because it is a useful and pleasurable thing to do.

A B C For children to be able to decode new and unfamiliar words they need to be able to segment and blend the sounds in the words. These skills are taught through Read Write Inc sessions throughout Reception and KS1 as well as through reading a variety of texts in school



Children engage in all sorts of reading activities each day at school, sometimes in groups, many of which occur in the course of different subject lessons (for example; using an encyclopaedia, locating information on the computer)

Guided Reading

Children also join in with weekly Guided Reading sessions and reading one to one with an adult whenever possible. During these sessions the teacher is able to assess the reading progress of the children using their personalised targets.



How can you help at home?

Before they come to school your child will have begun to explore the world of reading through sharing and exploring books with you. Once they have started to learn the skills required to read for themselves they need to practise frequently. Helping your child to master the lifelong skills of reading and become fluent, independent reader who develops a love for reading is one of the most important ways you can support your child's learning at home.

How to help your child when reading at home:

- Find a quiet place away from other interruptions.
- Spend a few minutes discussing the blurb (back of the book) and front cover before you even open the book - What do you think this book is about?
- Help and support your child if they get stuck on any words. **DO NOT** simply tell them words, encourage them to work it out by:
 - Sounding out the sounds
 - Using any picture clues
 - Using the context of the sentence to work out
 - What would sensibly fit?
 - Re-reading to check for meaning.
- Ask your child questions to check their understanding of the text e.g. What was your favourite part? How did you feel about the main character? Which words show you that the character is happy? What might happen?
- Give your child lots of praise and encouragement.



A Few don'ts:

- Do not be impatient with your child if they do not know/remember a word that they have read easily before simply encourage and help them to work it out.
- Do not read with your child whilst you are trying to help their younger/older siblings with other tasks.
- Do not make your child read there and then if they are really not in the mood. It will not be a very productive session for either you or your child. Suggest that you do it in ten minutes after tea etc instead.

Reading to, and with your child is an enjoyable and positive experience. Talking about the things you read - books, newspapers, instructions, recipes, shopping lists etc demonstrates that reading is a useful meaningful activity. Ensure your child knows you value reading - let them see you reading too!

Even when your child becomes an independent reader sharing bedtime stories will enable your child to enjoy literature, extend their vocabulary and comprehension of stories. It is also an enjoyable experience for both parents and children. The more stories and books your child hears, the more they will want to read.

Useful questions for reading times:

As your child becomes more confident with reading, they should be encouraged to spend time reading quietly and independently. However, it is also important that your child has the opportunity to discuss what they have read to demonstrate their understanding and to enable them to think more carefully about the text.

In this leaflet we have included a range of questions which can be used and adapted when discussing texts with your child. Please use your own judgement when choosing questions, bearing in mind the comments about keeping reading sessions light and enjoyable, and the age/ reading ability of your child.

Fiction Books

Questions about characters

What does look like? Use parts of the story to explain how you know this.

What sort of things does get up to?

Why do you think that behaves in the way that he/she does?

What have you learned about? Where did you get this from?

Would you like to have as a friend? Why/why not?

How did feel at the beginning/middle/end of the story? How do you know this?

Do you feel that you are in any way similar to? In what way?

Do you think that changed in any way during the story? How and why did these changes happen?

Why do you think said "....."?

Questions about settings

Where do the main events take place?

What effect does the setting have on the story?

When do the main events take place?

Does the timing of these events have an effect on the story?
Why do you think the author chose the settings that he/she has?
Do you think that the settings are well described? Why?
Can you select some good description and say why you think it is so effective?

General questions

Does what you have read in your book today make you want to carry on reading? Why/why not?
What main events have taken place in your book?
What caused these events to happen?
What was the result of these events?
What do you think may happen next & why?
What part of the story do you think is the funniest/saddest/most interesting?
How do you think the story will end?
Why do you think the book is called?
Did anything in the book make you think about something that once happened to you?
Do you think that the pictures help you to understand the book better?
Do the pictures make the book more enjoyable? How?
What questions would you like to ask the author?
Would you recommend this book to other children?
Would it appeal to all children? What sort of children do you think would like it?

Non-fiction Books

What have you learnt from your reading today?
Who do you think would find this book most interesting and useful?
How is the information arranged on each page?
How does the way that the information is set out help you to understand it?

Here it says (point to the contents page) is on page ... What do you think that page will be about?

How would you use the index to find something out?

Could you suggest any ways in which your book could be improved?

Poetry

Can you find out who wrote this poem and when it was written?

What pictures did it make you think of as you read the poem?

What is the poem about?

What is the poet trying to do or say?

What is it about the poem that you liked?

How do you think the poet is feeling about what they are writing about?

What 'poetic features' can you identify? (rhyme, rhythm, alliteration etc)

Did the poem remind you of anything else that you have read?

Does the shape the poem makes on the page, or the sounds it makes when you read it, add to the message?