

Reading



Nothing contributes more to a child's early education than listening to stories and sharing books! The extent to which children read and enjoy books has a significant impact on their progress and attainment across the curriculum.

All our pupils have a contact book which is shared between home and school. This book provides an opportunity for reading to be recorded and for parent and teacher to communicate with each other easily.

Our younger children follow the Phonics Bug reading scheme and take home their reading book each day. In addition to this, they take home a second reading book which is designed to develop fluency, along with a tin of tricky keywords to practise. We ask parents to share these books with their child as regularly as possible - both reading to them and encourage them to read to you.

From the start, children are encouraged to blend sounds together to read words - i.e. phonics. The sounds are taught as clipped short sounds. We let parents know the sounds the children have been taught and we hold parent workshops to explain this further. Alongside this, children are encouraged to learn by sight the words which occur most commonly in their reading books - words like 'the', 'go', and 'no'.

As children's reading becomes fluent we start to concentrate increasingly on their comprehension skills. This is supported by daily guided reading sessions which take place in all classes right through to Year 6.

We continue to foster and support a love of books throughout school. All classrooms have book corners with a range of books that the children can choose from, and they regularly read independently or with an adult in addition to their daily guided reading lessons. Our library has a range of non-fiction titles which the children are also allowed to borrow. We have a 'Book Fortnight' every Autumn when the children take part in a range of activities designed to encourage and inspire their love of literature.

Please see the next page for ideas about helping your child.

What you can do:

- Read stories to your child regularly whatever stage of reading they have reached. Children want to read, so make sure that they know the pleasure to be had from reading books.
- Switch off the television. Choose a time when you can be cosy together and make it a special time.
- Let your child decide who is going to read. They may want you to read the book or to read the book with you or to read it to you with only a little help.
- Look at the cover. Read the title, point out the author and illustrator.
- Go from left to right with your index finger under the words so that your child learns how a book works.
- Talk about the illustrations as children may need to use them as clues to what is happening on the new page.
- Encourage children to think about what may happen next.
- Make it fun. Remember to praise children for every attempt.

Try to avoid these situations:

- Putting your child under pressure to read to you.
- Forcing your child to listen to a story when they are not interested.
- Making learning a race to keep up with other children. You could destroy their confidence and love of books.