

Helping independent readers



- ✦ At this stage your child will be reading a range of reading materials and different types of texts e.g. fiction and non-fiction, poetry, science fiction, classics etc.
- ✦ Your role is to support when needed and continue to extend your child's reading.
- ✦ Make sure your child sees you reading a range of texts e.g. newspapers, books, magazines, leaflets etc
- ✦ Talk about this range of reading material with your child
- ✦ Set aside a regular time to read with your child. Remember this can also be just a conversation about what has been read.
- ✦ Some of the things you can talk about with your child are:
 - their likes and dislikes about what they have read
 - their opinions
 - themes and ideas in the text
 - any links they can identify between stories read and videos, TV, films seen
- ✦ Help your child interpret the meaning from the text which is not always explicit
- ✦ Ensure that your child has access to their own choice of reading to widen their knowledge and interest
- ✦ 'Surfing' the INTERNET is a really good way to develop your child's reading and research skills
- ✦ Encourage your child to share their 'cool reads' with friends
- ✦ Provide your child with a personal space to keep their books



You are the key to exciting your child about reading.



Helping your child with reading



Regular reading will help your child to improve their spelling, writing, general knowledge and imagination too.



Reading is an essential life skill that helps us to function every day.

Praise, encouragement and patience are very important when supporting your child.



Making time at least 3 times per week to listen to your child read, to share a book or to read to them will make a HUGE difference.

Your child needs to be exposed to all sorts of books, not just those in the school reading scheme – use the library whenever you can.





How can you help?



At Home

- ✚ Continue to read to your child frequently using a range of books.
- ✚ Make sure your child sees you reading. In this way you can model to them how books work.
- ✚ Take it in turns to read when sharing books with your child.
- ✚ Reinforce strategies taught at school by using:
 - picture clues
 - sounding out letters in words
 - Segmenting and blending sounds in words
 - recognising common words
 - working out what new words might be from the context of the sentence
 - reading on and coming back to tricky words
- ✚ Some of other things you can talk about with your child are:
 - What sort of book are they reading?
 - Are they enjoying the book?
 - Do they like the pictures?
 - What might happen next?
 - Have they read anything similar before?
- ✚ Ask lots of questions to make sure they understand what they are reading about and the meaning of any new words
- ✚ Don't make your child feel that reading is harder than anything else they are learning
- ✚ Find a time of the day to read together that works for both you and your child
- ✚ Allow your child to develop their reading at their own pace, every child is different!
- ✚ Celebrate reading success together!



At the Library

- ✚ It is free and has a wide range of fiction, non fiction, reference and poetry books!
- ✚ Look out for 'talking books' and DVDs of books.
- ✚ Often libraries will run 'Book Clubs' and have special library workshops for children.
- ✚ Newspapers – look for the junior Section. 'First News' is a great newspaper written especially for children.
- ✚ Our school library is available for families to use after school on Tuesdays.

Book Shops



- ✚ Continue to purchase books for your child as it is important for a child to own their own books. Encourage them to build up a collection in their own bookcase in their bedroom!
- ✚ Picture books are still important to your child at any age.
- ✚ Help them to find a series of chapter books that they will enjoy, it may reflect their interests or hobbies.
- ✚ Subscribe to a magazine that reflects your child's interest.
- ✚ Purchase topic research books to aid project work and support school based History, Geography and Science learning.
- ✚ Buy talking books which bring to life more difficult texts such as the classics etc.



Out and About

- ✚ Remember print is all around us, such as posters, road signs, shop names, lorry sides, shopping lists, labels and logos etc.
- ✚ Point out and share words and instructions you see around you with your child.