

READING

We encourage learners to read as often as they can at home. Your children can't learn to read without your support and they will rely on you to help them to practise their reading regularly.

We want to encourage children to develop a love for reading and this can only be achieved with parental support.

If a child enjoys reading they are six times more likely to be reading above the expected level for their age.

Not only will their attainment improve, but they also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures.

READING AT HOME

Make sure you are both sitting comfortably, are not too tired and won't be disturbed.



When listening to your child read, try to use the ratio of 60:40

60% of the time they're reading and 40% of the time you are discussing the book and what is happening.



Encourage your child and praise them.

READING AT SCHOOL

We believe that reading is the foundation for learning and so we are dedicated to helping your child develop as a reader. To do this we teach phonics in Key Stage One through the Read Write Inc phonics programme and provide phonics intervention for older learners who need extra help.

We teach comprehension strategies through class discussions, reading lessons and guided reading regularly. We know that children need time being listened to reading on a one-to-one basis too, so learners are regularly listened to read and their development closely monitored to ensure they are reading at the right level for them.

Our libraries are regularly updated with new fiction and non-fiction books at a range of levels and offer seating areas for children to relax and read a book. Each week, staff members or children post new book reviews on Class Dojo to recommend new books and get the children talking about their reading preferences. Staff also record weekly Sunday Stories which they share so that all children have the opportunity to listen to adults in school read their favourite stories.

Throughout the year, we hold various events to engage learners with reading, such as World Book Day. We also have authors, illustrators and storytellers visit throughout the year to share their stories with the children.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

All primary aged children can benefit from listening to stories. This means that they hear stories they wouldn't be able to read themselves; they get to see their role models enjoying a book and they get to have a very special moment sharing a book with their loved one.

WHAT DO I DO IF MY CHILD CAN'T READ A WORD IN THEIR BOOK?

1. Ask your child if they can sound out their word. This is where they will break it up into the sounds they recognise from their phonics. In phonics, they learn different phonemes (the smallest unit of sounds), for example, meat would be m-ea-t rather than m-e-a-t.
2. If your child struggles to do this independently, tell them the word and make a mental note of whether they remember it next time they come to it.



OXFORD OWL

In Reception – Year 1, your child will be given an Oxford Owl log in to use on a computer, tablet or mobile device at home. Oxford Owl gives children access to e-books at their level and so gives you more options when reading at home.

ACCELERATED READER

Between Y3 and Y6, when your child is ready, they will move from book banded books to Accelerated Reader. Once they have read a book, they will be able to do a quiz online, which will tell them how well they have understood the book and award them points. This helps us make sure your child is reading at the right level, and also allows us to identify and build on their reading preferences. It also tracks how many words your child has read - we have many very proud Word Millionaires in school.

myON

In Y3 - 6, your child will also be given a myON account. This allows them to access and read a wide range of books (particularly non-fiction) at home and links to their Accelerated Reader account.

READING HATS

In school, we teach reading through the Reading Hats. The Reading Hats separate different types of questions so that learners know what type of response they need to give when answering. Knowing that they need to give a "Red Hat answer" focuses the learners and helps them to provide more specific answers. Here are the main hats that you could use when questioning at home:

WHAT QUESTIONS CAN I ASK MY CHILD?



WHITE HAT QUESTIONS

Getting your child to retrieve facts (evidence) from the text and proving to you where they found the answer. For example,

The text: One sunny Tuesday morning, Tim ran down the road chasing his dog.

Question: What day was it? Where was Tim? What was he chasing?

For learners beginning to read they could also use the pictures to prove their answers. Although as soon as they are able it is better for them to be evidencing from the text.



RED HAT QUESTIONS

This is their gut reaction and opinion on anything relating to the text.

The text: One sunny Tuesday morning, Tim ran down the road chasing his dog.

Question: How do you think Tim was feeling as he ran down the road?

Answer: I think he was feeling worried.



BLACK HAT WORDS

We encourage children to be curious about new words and to learn new vocabulary. Black Hat Words are those your child does not already understand. You might try to find the meaning through looking at the context of the word or you might just tell them what it means. It is good to get them to use those new words at home.



"Reading is a priority for every child. Staff encourage love of reading through engaging story times and an abundance of books for pupils to read. Books are carefully chosen to promote diversity and difference." (Ofsted, March 2022)