



Parent/Carer Guide to Reading

Welcome!

Being able to read opens the door to learning and countless opportunities. It is a vital skill to have and practising everyday increases fluency and understanding. It is important for your children not only to be heard reading daily, but to also hear others reading. At school, we do this through Phonics, one to one reading sessions, as well as Guided Reading lessons; practical activities which involve children using books, both fiction and non-fiction, to find answers, along with having small group discussions often lead by a teacher. At home, support can be given through hearing your children read, asking them to read labels, instructions, signs etc. reading bedtime stories to your children, as well as information texts that may be beyond their reading ability. Reading to your children must continue even when they are able readers, reading more complex language will deepen their knowledge and widen their awareness of a variety of texts. This booklet contains examples of questions that you can ask your children while reading with them, as well as some of the language used in phonics. Each term the children's learning will be focussed around a book which creates a link to all subjects. Please ask your children about the books they are studying at school, using some of the questions provided.

Decoding (Phonics)

To help with your child's decoding of words in books you may want to consider asking them....

- What graphemes can you see? (The written letters which correspond with the phoneme or sound, for example, b – oo – t)
- How can you sound this word out?
- How many phonemes (sounds) are there?
- Which other word does this look like? (For example, should, would, could)
- Which picture gives you a clue about this word?
- How can you use your 'Robot Arms' to segment the word?
- How can you blend the sounds together by saying them more quickly each time?
- What could you do to help remember this word? (Rhyme etc)
- How could you use sound buttons to help segment this word?

Comprehension

To help with your child's understanding of the books they are reading to you, or you are reading to them, this booklet contains a list of possible questions that you may want to ask them during or after reading with them. The questions provided are not suitable for every age group, so please choose ones that you feel are appropriate to your child's reading ability.

Knowledge of the book:

- Where is the story set?
- When did the story take place?
- Who are the main characters?
- What does the main character look like?
- Where does the main character live?
- Where in the book might you find...?
- How does the story begin?

Understanding of the main points:

- What is happening?
- What happened at the end of the story? Why do you think this happened?/What do you think this might mean?
- Who is telling the story?
- Which parts of the story do you like best? Why?
- Which parts of the story are describing... (setting/character)?
- What is the problem in the story? How is it solved?

Transferring learning to new contexts:

- Can you think of another story that has the same problem?
- Can you think of another story that has the same theme?

- Can you think of a story that uses the same techniques (e.g. cliff hangers)?
- Can you think of another character that has acted like...?
- Have you had an experience like this?
- Have you read a story that begins in the same way as this one?
- If you were to write your own opening, what ideas would you borrow from this story? Why?

To express opinion:

- What makes you think...?
- How do you feel about...? Why?
- How has the author used descriptions to show us that the character is... (Happy/sad etc.)?
- What did the author intend by...?
- What do these words mean and why do you think the author chose them?
- Why do you think the author chose this setting?
- What evidence do you have to support your view that...?

To develop criticality:

- What do you think about...?
- What evidence do you have to back up your opinion?
- Using evidence available, what do you think about...?
- If you were the main character, what would you have done/how would you have reacted?
- How do you know that...?

To use evidence from the book to make judgements and comparisons:

- What do you think makes a successful story? What evidence do you have?
- If you were going to write the story how would you make it better?
- Do you think the ending is good or could it be better?
- Is the story better if read alone and silently or read aloud to others? Why?
- Who do you think would enjoy reading this story? Why?
- Which of your books do you like best? Why?