

Top Tips for Reading at Home

Many children can read the words on the page fluently but when asked to explain/summarise what they have just read, they are unable to respond. A good reader is involved in a complicated thinking process as they read. Summarised below are a number of strategies that can be used at home to help your child become an active reader who fully engages with the text.

Explore Books!

Give your child the opportunity to explore a variety of books for themselves. This gives your child a chance to find topics and books that will interest them. It is also important to encourage your child to read a selection of different genres and books by different authors.

Read, Read, Read!

It helps if your child can read every day *(please take note of the guidance given by individual year group teachers during the Parents' Information Evening at the beginning of the year)*

Children can read independently, aloud to an adult or with a sibling/friend. As you read monitor your reading so you know things are making sense.

Make it Fun!

Intentionally read with your child to discuss books but also find opportunities to research areas of interest, complete book activities together and read to your child as they learn by example.

It is also beneficial to re-visit a favourite book especially in the early stages of reading.

Summary of the Reading Focuses (AF1-7)

- 1 – reading fluently with understanding and expression
- 2- understand, describe, select or retrieve information from texts
- 3- deduce, infer or interpret information, events or ideas from texts
- 4 – structure and organisation of texts
- 5 – comment on writers' use of language
- 6 – comment on writer's purposes and viewpoints, including the overall effect of the text on the reader
- 7 – relate texts to social, cultural and historical traditions

Early Readers

- Point out and read words in the natural setting.
- Know key words by sight.
- Sound out unknown words – break the words into parts and use phonic knowledge.
- Skip a tricky word, re-read the sentence and go back – what word would make sense?
- Use illustrations as clues for words, extra meaning and information about the story as a whole.
- Visualise the story.
- Ask questions before, during and after including making predictions.

Reading Strategies

<p>IDENTIFY</p> <p>Determine the author's purpose (P.I.E – P=persuade; I = inform; E = entertain).</p> <p>Find the important details, the main idea and the themes of the text.</p> <p>Recognise cause and effect for events in the text.</p> <p>Comment on the author's choice of language/punctuation etc.</p> <p>Notice interesting new vocabulary to use in your own writing.</p> <p>Explore the features of a text and compare with other genres.</p>	<p>VISUALISE</p> <p>Create pictures of what you have read in your mind. This could include characters, settings and events from the text.</p> <p>Imagine a story is like a movie taking place or imagine processes and explanations happening visually to deepen understanding. Take the role of an illustrator and draw a picture of what you have visualised.</p>	<p>QUESTIONING</p> <p>Stop and ask yourself questions to see if the text makes sense. It is also important to ask questions to help you think about what you're reading, to clarify what you don't understand or to identify what you would like to find more information about.</p> <p>Find the answers to questions by using the text to support your answer. Skills of scanning and skimming for information can help to retrieve the information from a page or several pages.</p>	<p>MAKE CONNECTIONS</p> <p>Find ways to connect the text to personal experiences, other texts and the world around you</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is the style or genre similar to other books read? - do the characters resemble familiar people, other characters from different books? - similarities and differences between texts - making connections between texts by the same author - relate texts to different cultures, history etc
<p>SUMMARISE</p> <p>Extract facts and details from the text. Retell or summarise all or parts of the text in your own words making sure the most important parts are covered. Feel free to look back in the book to help structure the sequence.</p> <p>Summarise a story through a cartoon strip/story board.</p>	<p>PREDICT</p> <p>Determine what you think might happen in the text. Use the title, text and illustrations. You might make a prediction at the beginning, at different stages or at the end of the text.</p>	<p>INFER</p> <p>Use clues in the text and your own knowledge to fill in the gaps and draw conclusions. E.g. use the clues to discover what the author does not directly tell you.</p>	<p>EVALUATE</p> <p>Think about the text as a whole and form opinions about what you have read. What did you like/dislike about the text etc...</p> <p>Evaluate the overall effect of the text on the reader.</p>