

Reading Guidance for Parents



Leaflet 1 - Pink and Red Book Bands

Your child is starting to read and enjoy sharing books. The following guidance is designed to help you support your child with reading at home. The suggestions are not designed to be used every time you read with your child, but to give you an idea of what skills your child needs to develop within these book bands.

Please note that although your child will have been given a suggested book band by their teacher, this is just a guide. They may sometimes choose a harder book for a challenge, or to read with an adult. Occasionally taking a simpler book can help them develop their fluency and expression or they may simply want to enjoy reading an old favourite!

Phonic and other Reading Strategies

Your child should be encouraged to use their phonic skills (sounding out and blending the sounds) as the main approach for reading. In the texts your child will be bringing home you may come across 'Tricky Words'.

These are keywords which are not easy to sound out, and therefore need to be learnt as sight vocabulary.

Tricky Words for Leaflet 1:					
the	to	I	no	go	into
he	she	me	we	be	was
you	they	all	are	my	her

Your child may

- Be able to blend together simple CVC words (consonant, vowel, consonant e.g. cat, hen, pin).
- Begin to learn and use the 42 units of sound that are used in the English language (see school website).
- Recognise some tricky words by sight.

Reading Aloud to Your Child

Research has shown that reading aloud to children of all ages helps them to develop their writing skills. This is because it helps pupils to develop their knowledge of language and story structure. Reading traditional fairy tales is particularly important as these contain the basic story elements and simple structures which help children to understand how stories work. Learning songs and rhymes, such as nursery rhymes, prepares children for the sounds and patterns in language and provides a vital part of their language development.

Reading to children also provides them with a greater range of ideas which they can use in their own writing, and gives them access to texts that may be too complex for them to read alone.

How to Help With Reading

- Remember that talking about reading is very important, so if your child is sometimes reluctant to read aloud, discussing a book will also help to develop reading skills.
- Concentrate on enjoyment and grasping the meaning rather than absolute accuracy.
- Keep reading time relaxed and comfortable, in a quiet corner, with the television turned off.
- Talk about the cover and read the title before rushing your child into the text, asking questions, such as: what do you think it will be about; what sort of book is it; have you read one like this before?
- Look through the book, noticing interesting pictures and words, then read the opening together.
- Don't correct too quickly. If your child makes an error suggest having another go, searching the pictures for a clue, looking at the sounds or reading on before you 'tell' the problem word.
- Try splitting words up or looking for little words in bigger words.

- If your child is really struggling, take over the reading yourself and let the teacher know.
- If your child wants to read a book again or read an easy book this will help them enjoy reading and so they will see themselves as good readers.
- When your child brings home a book that has been read before ask for a summary before reading it again, then discuss the book at a deeper level than last time.
- As your child progresses, talk about authors, characters and plots or what new information has been learnt.
- Print is everywhere! Signs, posters, comics and magazines can make a refreshing change from story books.

Fostering a Love of Reading

It is also valuable for children to see adults enjoying reading themselves. Showing your child that you yourself enjoy reading a book or newspaper can help them to see the purpose for reading, and encourage them to become a reader.

Other ways to engage children as readers include listening to CD stories, visiting the library or a book shop to choose their own books and sharing books with their siblings. Reading should never be a chore. Helping your child to develop a love of books now will help them to develop as independent readers as they get older.