

Find tempting texts - share books you've loved or ask your child's teacher for ideas if stuck.

Take it in turns to read - maybe with added silly voices!

Enjoy the local library together - or make use of the Libby app for audiobooks.

Read comics, websites, recipes, road signs - all reading is reading!



## Questions?

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's reading or other questions about how to support their reading journey, do speak to your child's class teacher.



## A Guide To Help Your Child With Their Reading

### **Making time for reading**

There is lots of evidence linking reading for pleasure with improved literacy and maths, wider vocabulary and increased imagination and empathy. Reading together can also be a lovely one-to-one time, whether that be snuggling up in the evening or taking ten minutes in the morning when everyone is feeling fresher.

There are two main strands to be aware of when listening to your child:

- Sounding out words
- Understanding of what they are reading

## Sounding out

Your child will use their school phonics to sound out the words in front of them.

You can encourage the two key skills of segmenting (splitting the word into each individual sound) and blending (putting the sounds back together.) The aim is that over time, they will read out an increasing number of familiar words automatically without prompting.

### Tips for supporting reading aloud:

- Encourage use of phonetic letter sounds rather than 'alphabet names'. So for 'cat' you'd say c-a-t; not CAT. As they read longer words, your child may focus more on syllables, e.g. 'part-i-tion'.
- Use *pause, prompt, praise*.  
If they make a mistake, pause for a few seconds to see if they self-correct, then prompt by asking: "Does that make sense?" Or give the sound they're struggling with or help them sound it out. Then praise them for finishing the page or trying hard.
- Noticing sentence punctuation, particularly full stops, question marks and exclamation marks.

## Understanding

As well as sounding out, it is important your child understands what they are reading. Some children may be able to easily say all of the words in their book but not yet understand it fully.

Comprehension happens at different levels: the meaning of individual words, the meaning of sentences or sections, and the meaning across texts.

Here are some prompts to help support your child's reading comprehension:

### Before starting a book

- Who is the author?
- What can you see on the front cover?
- What do you think this book is going to be about? Why?
- Does the blurb give us any more clues?
- Who do you think the characters will be?

### Giving reasons

- What makes you think that?
- I wonder why the author has...?
- Which words has the author used to show that this character is *funny/unkind*?

### Recalling details from the book

- Where does the story take place?
- Who are the characters in the book?
- What did he/she/it look like?
- Where did he/she/it live?

### Sequencing:

- Where did he/she/it live?
- What happened first?
- What happened next?

### Understanding the story

- What do you think is happening here?
- What happened in the story?
- What might this mean?
- Which part of the story best describes the...?
- How is *this character* feeling?
- What do you think will happen next? Why?

### Discussing the book

- What was your favourite part?
- Who was your favourite character?
- Is this book as good as...? Why?
- Could this book be better? How?