



Dear Parents and Carers,

Reading regularly at school and home has a massive impact on a child's success at school and later in life. Since all of the disruption to the school and your child's learning we have decided to have a big push on reading. To make this as successful as possible we need your support.

At school the teachers have been asked to keep a reading folder which will show when they have listened to the children read. Listening to the children read in school is achieved in many different ways. For example, we do guided reading, we hear them reading from a text book in all subjects to complete a task or we hear them reading instructions for a game or as part of ICT. We hear your children read every day.

As a school we have also spent over £1000 on books this term. The books were all chosen by the children and teachers and have caused much excitement. For many children it has reignited their love of reading or helped reluctant readers become more engaged. This was exactly the reaction we wanted and why we are passionate to promote reading at school.

At home, we are sure many of you are listening to your children read in a similar way whilst doing many different activities but as a school we need evidence of this. We need to prove and show just how good our school is and how much as a community we value the importance of reading.

Therefore, we are asking that you sign your child's reading diary or bookmark, at least 4 times a week so that we have proof that you are helping us and working with us to give your child the best start that we can to their education. Staff have been asked to check all diaries and bookmarks every Monday to ensure this is happening. This is a record of reading at home; teachers will have their own records in school which I will look at as Literacy co-ordinator.

Please support us with this important task. There are some tips included with this letter and if you have any questions please talk to us - we're here to help.

Many thanks

Mrs Sharon Thomas

# A Guide to Supporting Your Child's Reading



1. When your child brings their reading book home from school, make a special time each day to listen to them read it. Provide them with lots of praise.
2. When children first learn to read, their pace will be very slow as they sound out letters. Be patient and give them time to work it out. Guide them gently if they are still unable to read the word, by looking at the first letter or letters.
3. Encourage your child to re-read their books. Re-reading has the benefit of enabling your child to read more accurately and to read at a faster pace.
4. In addition to the book they bring home from school, get other books from the library or a book shop that are at the same level as their school book. Being able to choose their own books will also add excitement to the process of learning to read and will help to instil a love of reading for a lifetime.
5. Learning to read is not just about being able to read the print on the page, but being able to understand what it is that they are reading. Help your child to improve their comprehension skills by asking them questions about what they have just read. At first this may be difficult for them, as they are giving so much energy on reading the print. You can build on the questioning as your child's reading ability develops.
6. Carry one of their books around with you, so that if an opportunity arises, (such as waiting for an appointment), your child can read to you.
7. Ensure that the books they choose are at the right level. If they are too difficult, you run the risk of squashing their excitement and love of reading. They need to have plenty of successes with their reading in order to maintain their motivation to read.



8. When your child makes a mistake, be sensitive with corrections. Gently show them the letter or letters they missed out.
9. Continue to read aloud to your child at a level above the books they are reading. Reading aloud continues to have enormous benefits long after your child becomes a competent reader. (See: Reading Aloud: Giving Children the Best Start).
10. Make time to talk to your child every day, whether it's about what happened at school, or your plan for the afternoon. Include some words they don't know in your conversation. This will provide you with an opportunity to explain its meaning and constantly be adding to their vocabulary.
11. When reading aloud to them, let them read the words they know, or ones that you think they'll be able to read with some help. Reading together like this, will make an already special time, even more fun.
12. Writing is closely linked to reading. Encourage your child to write, even if they are not forming legible letters. (See: Learning to Write: Supporting Your Child From The Start).
13. As your child becomes more fluent in their reading, avoid being fooled into always thinking that they are understanding what they are reading. Ask questions about what they have read. If they have difficulty answering, go through the book again together, to find out the things that they have not understood.
14. If you ever have concerns about your child's reading; whether it's thinking that they should move up a level in their reading book or more serious concerns regarding their ability, never hesitate to speak to their teacher.
15. Practice, practice and practice. This is key when children are learning to read. Like with learning any other skill, it's by practising that they will become accomplished readers.

