

# **Helping your KS2 child with reading at home.**



This booklet aims to help you to understand our present system for reading in school and at home and to make you more aware of your important role within that system. We hope that you will work in partnership with us to ensure that your child develops a love of books and gains knowledge, enthusiasm, enjoyment and inspiration from reading.



## Reading in School.

Children read every day in school in both formal and informal settings. Within a normal school day, children read as a class, in groups, in pairs and individually, both silently and aloud.

### Shared Reading

In the English lesson the children share a class text with the teacher and all are encouraged to take part in reading the text, understanding books and developing reading strategies, using them to read new and unfamiliar words. Children will learn about the structure of stories, poems and information texts. They become aware of authors, illustrators and publishers and begin to develop and express preferences in their reading. An awareness of writing styles and conventions is also developed through reading so that children may be aware of these and apply them to their own writing.

### Guided Reading

Children also read regularly in small groups with the teacher. After some initial teaching and discussion of the text (which is appropriate to their level of ability) they read individually, guided by the teacher in order to develop their reading skills.

### Other reading in school

Within the classroom the children are exposed to a 'print rich' environment with lots of key words and displays. Children are encouraged to read and write during lessons and whilst they are at play. Role play areas are set up with this in mind. We have computer programs which the children use during English, Maths and in other curriculum areas. These programs also enhance children's reading and writing skills. Naturally all other curriculum areas give a high priority to English skills and skills taught and learnt in English are also practised and reinforced in other subjects.

There is a book corner in all classrooms and children have regular access to our school library. Children are taught to respect and take good care of books so that they can be used and enjoyed by everyone. Hearing stories and poems is just as important as reading them and story time is a very special time for both children and teachers. Teachers model good reading skills which help to make the texts more interesting and enjoyable to the listener.

### Home reading

As already explained, children are **taught** to read in school. They do, however need to **practise** their reading as often as possible and this is where a good home reading scheme is invaluable. Your child's scheme reading book will be changed approximately twice per week, but do not limit their reading to scheme books only, children may complement their school reading books with books from home. A wide variety of reading material will help your child to enjoy and appreciate the true value of books and reading.

## Helping Your Child with Reading at Home

Once children have developed the basic skills of reading, there can be a risk that their motivation and enthusiasm begins to lessen. This is a vital stage in children's reading development and the point at which parents can offer invaluable support. Taking time to talk to your child about the books they choose and listening to them reading aloud regularly can make all the difference. Children need to understand why we read. They need to experience the range of feelings that a book can create or the power that can be gained from accessing information. Reading must not only be confined to stories. Many children love reading comics, magazines, newspapers, information books and poetry. All of these reading activities should be encouraged.

Children in Key Stage 2 will all be at very different stages of reading development, but even for the most fluent readers there is a need for parental support.

Most parents are able to create quality time to share a book individually with one child. This is the time when children can develop a much deeper understanding of the books that they are reading. Rather than reading at home being 'reading practice', it should extend and enrich the reading experiences of school. One of the most powerful ways in which parents can do this is to show real enthusiasm themselves.

Your sense of excitement about books and stories, your anticipation about what will happen next in a story and a discussion about your own likes and dislikes, will greatly influence your child. Asking questions that go beyond the literal meaning of the book will help your child to think more deeply about what they are reading. Regular library or book shop visits can be used to help develop motivation.

**The following points are to support you when reading at home with your child. Regular, daily reading is the key to reading success. Two or three of these sessions could be your child reading silently to themselves and the others an opportunity for them to read aloud. Please use these guidelines to help you:**

- *make sure you are relaxed and comfortable during the reading session*
- *encourage your child to read with expression*
- *your child should be able to read approximately 9 out of every 10 words in the book, less than this and the book may be too difficult*
- *discuss the meaning of difficult words*
- *ask questions about the characters, the plot, the ending of the book and whether your child enjoyed it. If your child is not enjoying a story, stop reading it and ask them to change the book*
- *encourage talk about favourite authors and illustrators*
- *try and make sure that your child reads a range of different books*
- *model the reading process yourself by having your own book to read*
- *give lots of praise and encouragement*
- *keep up a regular dialogue with your child's teacher through the home/school reading record book*

**Have Fun!**

*Books and stories open up new  
worlds of excitement and  
imagination for children!*

