

# Helping your KS1 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.

Becoming a reader involves the development of important skills;

- ❖ ***Using language in conversation***
- ❖ ***Listening and responding to stories read aloud***
- ❖ ***Recognising and naming the letters of the alphabet and the sounds that they make***
- ❖ ***Reading often so that recognition of words becomes automatic and easy***
- ❖ ***Learning and using new words***
- ❖ ***Understanding what is read***



## 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, encourage your child to read the same book to you more than once and do not limit their reading to scheme books only. A wide variety of reading material will help your child to enjoy and appreciate the true value of books and reading.

## Your role

Sharing books and stories and talking about them with your child will help increase his/her enjoyment of books and improve their reading skills. Try to set aside a quiet time when you can sit together and share the enjoyment of the story and the pictures. Here are a few points to remember:

- ❖ Make time to read with your child and hear them read, try to provide a peaceful atmosphere with no distractions so that children can fully enjoy listening to, or reading, a book.
- ❖ Model reading from left to right by pointing to words with your finger, then theirs.
- ❖ Let children have time to attempt words that they are unsure before you give them the word. Help them to get the initial sound or try breaking the word into smaller sections. If your child is struggling, give them the word but encourage them to re-read the sentence correctly to reinforce the new word they have learnt and hear themselves successfully reading the sentence.
- ❖ Encourage children to use the pictures to support them and discuss new words.
- ❖ Talk to your child about what is going on in a book or story. Ask questions such as;
  - Which character did you like best? Why?
  - Why was the King upset?
  - What do you think will happen next?
  - How did the girl feel at the end of the story?
- ❖ ‘Common Exception Words’ are the words that your child will need to read and write correctly by the end of KS1. They are made up of a words that are frequently misread or misspelt.
  - Practise key words by making ‘Flash cards’.
  - How many words can your child read in a minute?
  - Challenge children to find given key words in books they are reading.
  - Make key words out of playdough or letters made from a variety of fabrics or materials.
- ❖ Praise your child for trying hard with their reading. Celebrate their successes, but let them know that it is all right to make mistakes!



- ❖ Encourage them to share reading with friends, grandparents, brothers, sisters and other family members.



- ❖ Reading should be a pleasurable and rewarding experience for your child, model a love of reading with your child – let children see that you value books. Seeing adults enjoying reading from books, newspapers, magazines, recipes or menus will make children want to read themselves.
- ❖ Practice the sounds of language –read books with rhymes. Teach your child rhymes, short poems and songs.
- ❖ Play simple word games e.g. How many words can you make up that sound like the word ‘cat’? Help your child take spoken words apart and put them back together. Help your child separate the sounds in words, listen for the beginning and ending sounds and put separate sounds together.



- ❖ Practise the alphabet by pointing out letters wherever you see them! Practise the sounds that letters make too. You could reinforce the letters and sounds your child is learning by cutting out letters, and pictures of things that begin with that letter, from magazines or comics and create a collage.
- ❖ Share stories with your child and re-read familiar books. Children learn the patterns of language from hearing stories and need practice in reading comfortably and with expression using books they know.
- ❖ Keep books safe and encourage children to have a special place where their books can be stored. Show them how to turn pages carefully.
- ❖ Join your local library – children can have access to hundreds of good quality books, both fiction and non-fiction...and its free!





## **HOME READING DIARY**

*You will be asked to fill in the home reading record book each time you hear your child read. Please be honest with your comments, if your child had problems with certain words or found the book very difficult, please say so. Do not be afraid to ask the teacher to send home the same book again, this is not a race and moving on too quickly may result in difficulties at a later stage.*

### **Some points to note for successful reading times:**

- ❖ make sure the atmosphere is happy and relaxed.
- ❖ let your child sit very close to you.
- ❖ talk to your child about the picture first, using some of the words from the text.
- ❖ give your child plenty of time before helping them out.
- ❖ if your child is having difficulty with a word, read the whole sentence up to the word to help your child establish the meaning of the text.
- ❖ go back to the picture and discuss whatever is relevant to the reading in it.
- ❖ give lots of praise and encouragement.
- ❖ don't make your child think that he/she is in competition with anyone else. Children reach different levels at different stages and many factors play a part. Your child's reading will be regularly assessed by the class teacher and she will make the decision as to whether your child is ready to move on.

***Reading is one of the most valuable and rewarding skills your child will learn.***

*We believe that children who read regularly to an adult at home, make greater and quicker progress in the development of their reading and comprehension skills and therefore any time you can spend hearing your child read will provide valuable support to their learning.*

### **Useful websites:**

[www.educationcity.com](http://www.educationcity.com)

[www.oxfordowl.co.uk](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk)

[www.wordsforlife.org.uk](http://www.wordsforlife.org.uk)

[www.literacytrust.org.uk](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk)