



Reading – A Guide for Parents

Reading and Phonics

Reading to your child

In the early stages of reading, children learn to “behave like a reader”, by copying what they see and learning how a book works. Sharing and repeating favourite stories together encourages children to join in. As children become increasingly independent readers, don't stop reading to them. You can model and encourage correct pronunciation, good expression and reading at the right pace.

Listening to your child read

In Key stage 1, each week your child will bring home a familiar phonically decodable book linked to the Read Write inc programme which they have been reading in class. Alongside this book, they will bring two more books home which are linked to the sound they have been learning in their phonics group. Your child will also have chosen the 'share' book that they have brought home and picked from our school library. If it appears they have read a book before and enjoyed it enough to read again, that is fine. If it is too difficult or too easy, have a go at reading it together, as pleasure in reading is a strong motivation. If your child has chosen a book which they don't like it, there is no reason they should have to finish it. Choose another book to read instead. Never let your child stumble over a word for more than a few seconds. If they do not know a word help them to work it out using clues in the text e.g. use their phonic knowledge, look at the illustrations, read ahead to make a reasonable guess at the missing word so that the sentence makes sense in the context of the story. If your child makes a mistake, allow them to continue for a little way and correct themselves. If they don't notice the mistake, then prompt them to check if what they have read makes sense.

Independent Reading

Remember that the most lasting form of motivation is your child's own realisation that what they are doing is enjoyable and useful to them at this moment in time. Provide children with the opportunity to read independently for their own purposes and enjoyment right from the beginning.

Always make reading fun! Praise your child as much as possible and never allow anxiety or a feeling of failure to develop.

Helping your Child to Read

In KS1 children learn to read using the Read Write Inc Phonics programme. Children learn a sound a day until they have learnt all set 1 sounds. During this time they are starting to learn how to orally blend words before independently blending.

There are a number of short films you can watch which support parents in how to help your child learn to read. These can be used using the following links:

<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/i7mCCRAP/SJnvdrBo>
<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/uPERxGuo/nOOMCGzt>
<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/8gQ7G5GZ/rYRIQjoz>

Remember to discuss what your child is reading and ask them questions to ensure they understand what they are reading. This will help them to develop the skills they will need in future life in order to be able to read for a purpose, and of course for pleasure! Encourage them to find examples directly from the text they are reading when discussing and answering questions about it.

Before Reading:

What is the title of the book?
Who is the author?
What do you think the book will be about?
What do the pictures on the cover tell you about the story?
What type of book is it? (fiction, non-fiction, poetry) How do you know?
What would you like to find out by reading the book?
What questions do you have about the book?

During Reading:

Find a word that you don't know. What does it mean?
How should you read the word if it is written in capital letters?
What do you do when you see a full stop / exclamation mark / speech marks?
Who are the main characters? How does the character behave? (find examples in the text)
How does the character feel when ... ?
Where does the story take place?
What pictures and images can you see in your mind as you read?
What do you think will happen next?
What do you think will happen in the end?
What information have you found out?
Which is the most important piece of information?
Why has the author used this word?