

Reading at Home

How to help your child with reading at home

Below we hope you will find some pointers to help you whilst reading with your child.

In lower KS2, children are expected to develop word recognition, develop fluency and expression whilst reading, to detect error in their reading and use self-correcting strategies and develop their reading comprehension through recall, inference and deduction.

Now your child is reading longer books, they may read the same book for days or even weeks. This is absolutely fine and is encouraged so that children become aware of storylines, plot, character development, the building of tension and different endings.

It is always good to start a book by encouraging your child to predict what might happen in the text. This can be done by reading the title and looking at the front cover. It could also be done by reading the title and looking at the first couple of pages and then working on the prediction. (It is important that you have made yourself familiar to the text previously).

How to start a prediction:

Here are a few different ways to start a prediction sentence with your child.

I think...

I'll bet...

I wonder if...

I predict that...

I think...will happen because...

It is important that you model predictions to your child and then encourage them to do it after you using the same kind of vocabulary.

After the predictions and before letting your child have a go at reading the text it is important that you model read the text to your child, that way they hear how the book is supposed to be read and how it is supposed to sound - this will help them when they start reading more fluently.

Comprehension of the text

Once you have both finished the book it is important to check that your child has understood the book. This can be done by asking specific questions relating to the characters and storylines in the book.

Who...?

What...?

When...?

Why...?

How do you know?

Why do you think...?

Summary of a book

Children will sometimes get to the end of a book and will have worked so hard at their reading skills on each page, that they get to the end and do not actually understand what the book is about.

To help them summarise a book you could talk about the following points.

The most important part was....

The book was about.... (First, Next, Then, Finally),...

The main characters are...

The problem in the story was...

In the (beginning, middle, end)...

All of the above is part of the reciprocal reading approach which the whole school is now using. These skills will take time to learn, and your child will become more familiar with the process if we are all tackling it in the same way. We will be doing this during whole class story time, literacy tasks and guided reading sessions. We are hoping that if we continue to develop their understanding of reading, that they will grow up to have a love for reading.

Any questions, please see the class teacher.

Thank you and happy reading!