

28th September 2022

RE: Reading at home

Dear Parents and Carers,

Home reading is an important part of our children's reading development. Through home reading, children develop their love of books and their desire to read for enjoyment. They acquire a growing vocabulary and become skilful at using their creativity, imagination, inventiveness and critical awareness.

All children should now have come home with a Book Bag a Reading Book and also a Library Book. We would encourage you to hear your child read regularly at home and that you sign and date this reading record each time. The recommendation is that you hear your child read at least 3 times a week.

You may also like to record other kinds of reading you share with your child; for example, reading comics, going to the library, newspapers. A trip to the library is also a fantastic way to promote reading, children are more likely to read if they see you reading.

If you wish to discuss this further please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher via Class Dojo or in person at school and they will be happy to help.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs S. Hughes

Head of English

Shared reading is a great way to develop children's language and communication and to boost their reading skills. Regular reading routines can offer lots of opportunities for learning during school closures.

1 Concentrate on reading quality (it isn't all about reading lots!)



Don't worry too much about the 'what' and 'how' of reading each day. Books are great—but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions on a webpage can all be great too. Following a recipe to make some cupcakes is valuable reading. Be on the lookout for reading, wherever it is!

2 Ask your child lots of questions



All reading matters. Shared reading is about 'reading with', not just 'reading to' (even for older children). So, ask lots of 'Wh' questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example, 'what do you think Harry is feeling?'

3 Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read



If it is a book, look at the front cover—or the last chapter—and talk about what might happen next. Look for clues in the book and be a reading detective! For example, 'can you see the bear on the front cover? Where do you think he will go?'

4 Ask your child to summarise what they have read



When you've finished reading, talk about what happened. Acting out the things that happened in the story or describing the big idea of a chapter is really fun and maximises learning. For example, 'can you remember all the things that happened on the bear hunt?'

5 Ask your child to write about what they have read



Write, or draw pictures, from anything you've read! Big writing and pictures are even more fun. For example, use an old roll of wallpaper to make a treasure map with clues from the stories you've read together.

6 Read and discuss reading with friends or family



Make books a part of the family. Encourage your child to share them with a relative or friend, over a video call. Laugh about them when you are making meals together. For example, 'I hope the tiger doesn't come to tea today!'

7 Maintain the motivation to read



Talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Your child is on an amazing journey to becoming a reader. Put them in the driving seat and have fun on the way! For example, 'choose your favourite story for bedtime tonight.'

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