

Reading Guidance for Parents:

Reading to your child at home:

Please read to your child every day. This is vital for language acquisition, vocabulary expansion and developing a love of reading. Research shows that children who are never read to at home are exposed to approximately 300,000 fewer words than children who are read to once a day per day from birth to 5 years of age: *'Here's how many words kids would have heard by the time they were 5 years old: Never read to, 4,662 words; 1–2 times per week, 63,570 words; 3–5 times per week, 169,520 words; daily, 296,660 words; and five books a day, 1,483,300 words.'* (Jessica AR Logan, Laura M Justice, Melike Yumuş, Leydi Johana Chaparro-Moreno. ['When Children Are Not Read to at Home: The Million Word Gap'](#)).



Year 2 listening to Ms. Woodhouse read a story in the new library area. Ms. Lily's Woodland mural inspired by the children's art work on whole school woodland/re-wilding photography project.

Library:

Our new library is up and running! Reception Class, Y1 and Y2 will be allocated a slot once a week, where they can immerse themselves in the wonderful woodland, while listening to a

story and choosing a book to take home. KS2 will also be able to use this space. Please write a comment in your child's reading record to let us know how much they enjoyed the story and jot down any of their observations or interpretations.



Reading Records:



Children need to bring these into school **every day** in order to strengthen home/school communication with regards to your child's progress in reading. Please refer to the middle pages of the reading record for further guidance on how to support your child. This section includes 'Top tips', common exception words, high frequency words, comprehension and phonics guidance (younger pupils) and spelling, punctuation and additional writing guidance for older pupils.

Oxford Reading Tree levelled books: Please listen to your child read every day and encourage lots of discussion around the text. Pupils should re-read each book at least 3 times throughout the week to help develop fluency and learn and retain new vocabulary.

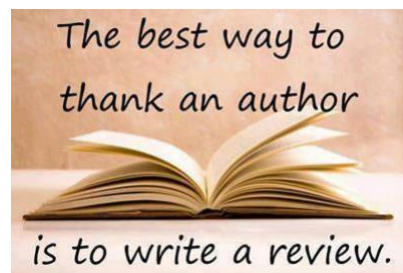


Library books: Please read this book to your child throughout the week and discuss the text, encouraging them to retell the story in their own words and comment on the plot and characters.



Book Reviews:

Each class will have a collection of book reviews from pupils. A selection of these will be kept in a scrap book in the Infant and Junior Libraries. Please support your child with preparing for a book review, through questions, encouragement and discussion.



Five benefits of writing book reviews:

1. Nifty Note-taking:

Learning to pick out useful pieces of information from longer texts is a skill that can be used throughout life – particularly when learning at more advanced levels. There's no reason why the technique can't be introduced early, when children have gained some writing competency and are being introduced to longer passages. When thinking ahead to a book review, readers should be encouraged to note down the quotes and phrases which they are likely to want to reference later.

2. Competent Critical Thinking:

Writing a book review is a chance to examine literature and digest it in a more complex way than simply following the story and understanding its plot.

Compile a list of questions to help children think critically about the book they're reading and draw conclusions based on both facts and feelings. These should include questions about the characters, the plot and the author's style and use of language,

3. Reliable Research

Learning how to properly research a topic is another skill that will serve pupils well throughout their education. To add further context to a review, pupils could do some research into the author of their chosen book. Using the author's website, for example, could tell them about their life and other books they've written, further broadening and enhancing their understanding.

4. Riveting Reflection

Writing book reviews can help pupils develop accuracy and constructivism. Therefore, when writing their review, children should consider why they did or did not enjoy the book and provide explanations or suggestions.

5. Impressive Influence

Peer recommendation is powerful. When a book is positively received by a pupil, it's likely to be considered by their friends, therefore contributing to the levels of engagement and enthusiasm about reading in the classroom.

'Top tips for parents to support children to read' (Department for Education, July 2020).

1. Encourage your child to read

Reading helps your child's wellbeing, develops imagination and has educational benefits too. Just a few minutes a day can have a big impact on children of all ages.

2. Read aloud regularly

Try to read to your child every day. It's a special time to snuggle up and enjoy a story. Stories matter and children love re-reading them and poring over the pictures. Try adding funny voices to bring characters to life.

3. Encourage reading choice

Give children lots of opportunities to read different things in their own time - it doesn't just have to be books. There's fiction, non-fiction, poetry, comics, magazines, recipes and much more. Try leaving interesting reading material in different places around the home and see who picks it up.

4. Read together

Choose a favourite time to read together as a family and enjoy it. This might be everyone reading the same book together, reading different things at the same time, or getting your children to read to each other. This time spent reading together can be relaxing for all.

5. Create a comfortable environment

Make a calm, comfortable place for your family to relax and read independently - or together.

6. Make use of your local library

Libraries in England are able to open from 4 July, so visit them when you're able to and explore all sorts of reading ideas. Local libraries also offer brilliant online materials, including

audiobooks and ebooks to borrow. See [Libraries Connected](#) for more digital library services and resources.

7. Talk about books

This is a great way to make connections, develop understanding and make reading even more enjoyable. Start by discussing the front cover and talking about what it reveals and suggests the book could be about. Then talk about what you've been reading and share ideas. You could discuss something that happened that surprised you, or something new that you found out. You could talk about how the book makes you feel and whether it reminds you of anything.

8. Bring reading to life

You could try cooking a recipe you've read together. Would you recommend it to a friend? Alternatively, play a game where you pretend to be the characters in a book, or discuss an interesting article you've read.

9. Make reading active

Play games that involve making connections between pictures, objects and words, such as reading about an object and finding similar things in your home. You could organise treasure hunts related to what you're reading. Try creating your child's very own book by using photos from your day and adding captions.

10. Engage your child in reading in a way that suits them

You know your child best and you'll know the best times for your child to read. If they have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) then short, creative activities may be the way to get them most interested. If English is an additional language, encourage reading in a child's first language, as well as in English. What matters most is that they enjoy it.

