



Reading at Little Reddings School

Why is reading so important?

Reading is a vital tool for learning and for life. Reading not only helps us to widen our knowledge and experiences but also increases our confidence in many aspects of our lives.

Research shows that children who enjoy reading achieve better results at school. Helping children to make progress in reading is most successful when it is done in partnership between home and school. Any support you can give your child will improve their progress. We appreciate that parents and other adults are more than willing to offer this support, but may sometimes be unsure how to go about it. Here are some tips and advice which we hope you will find useful. Please speak with your child's teacher for further advice.

Reading Aloud to Your Child Research has shown that reading aloud to children of all ages helps them to develop their writing skills. This is because it helps pupils to develop their knowledge of language and story structure.

Reading to children also provides them with a greater range of ideas which they can use in their own writing, and gives them access to texts that may be too complex for them to read alone.

Please help your child to become a successful reader.

How often should you hear your child read?

Early Years

All nursery and reception children will be issued with a reading book and reading record. In nursery and reception, we would recommend that you read with your child each day for 5- 10 minutes.

Please sign and date the reading record each time you read with your child and write a small comment detailing your reading experience e.g. 'Lilly loved this book, especially the part where they walk through the forest.' This lets the teacher know that you are supporting at home. We will keep a check on reading journals over the year. We have explained to the children that reading at home is part of their homework and therefore if the journals are not signed we will be contacting you to ask if you require any further support.

How to help your child read in Early Years

- Keep reading time relaxed and comfortable, in a quiet corner, on the sofa or in bed, with the television turned off
- Concentrate on enjoyment and grasping the meaning of the book
- Spend a few minutes discussing the blurb (information about the book) and front cover before you even open the book - What do you think this book is about? What sort of book is it; have you read one like this before?
- Look through the book, noticing interesting pictures and words, then read the opening together.
- Reading traditional fairy tales is particularly important as these contain the basic story elements and simple structures which help children to understand how stories work.
- Learning songs and rhymes, such as nursery rhymes, prepares children for the sounds and patterns in language and provides a vital part of their language development.
- As you read the book, point to the words on the page so that children learn to read a text from left to right.
- Use your hands and face as well as your voice- your child will love to see you smiling.
- Ask your child questions to check their understanding of the text. Please refer to the bookmark attached for some ideas: What was your favourite part? How did you feel about the main character? Which words show you that the character is happy? What might happen next?
- Give your child lots of praise and encouragement. Remember it takes lots of practise.

Key Stage 1

All Year 1 and 2 children will be issued with a reading book and reading record. We recommend that all children read between 5-10 mins on a daily basis. The children are encouraged to read their books through once, concentrating on decoding unfamiliar words and then once more to practise fluency and expression.

Please sign and date the reading record each time you read with your child, making a small comment detailing your reading experience, noting any struggles e.g 'Read well today but struggled to read the word said.' This lets the teacher know that you are supporting at home and we can assist the child further with any unknown words. In Key Stage 1 we check children's reading records before they are allowed to change their books and will not allow them to do so unless it is signed and a comment is written. We have explained to the children that reading at home is part of their homework and therefore if the reading records are not signed we will be contacting you to ask if you require any further support.

How to help your child read in Key Stage 1

- Keep reading time relaxed and comfortable, in a quiet corner, on the sofa or in bed, with the television turned off
- Concentrate on enjoyment and grasping the meaning of the book
- Spend a few minutes discussing the blurb (information about the book) and front cover before you even open the book - What do you think this book is about? What sort of book is it; have you read one like this before?
- Look through the book, noticing interesting pictures and words, then read the opening together.
- Reading traditional fairy tales is particularly important as these contain the basic story elements and simple structures which help children to understand how stories work.
- Encourage your child to point to the words on the page so that they read each line carefully, not missing any words.

- Talk about punctuation on the page and what it looks like and means. E.g If there are speech marks, how might the characters say the speech?
- Ask your child questions to check their understanding of the text. A bookmark of suggested questions is attached :What was your favourite part? How did you feel about the main character? Which words show you that the character is happy? What might happen next?
- Give your child lots of praise and encouragement. Remember it takes lots of practise.

Key Stage 2

Children in Years 3-6 will be issued with a reading book based on our new Accelerated Reading scheme. Accelerated Reading is designed to help develop children's comprehension. The children take an initial test every half term, which generates a reading book colour designed for each child's comprehension level. Once the children finish reading a book, they log onto their accelerated reading account and complete a test based on the book that they have read.

Although the children are encouraged to read independently, we still ask that you monitor that you child is reading at home and hear them as often as you can, testing them on their comprehension. A list of questions that you can ask them is attached on the bookmark for Key Stage 2. Teachers will also monitor that children are completing tests frequently and will report back to parents/carers if this fails to happen. Children in Key Stage 2 are not issued with a reading record, but instead a homework diary where they can write when they have read at home.

How to help your child read in Key Stage 2

- Keep reading time relaxed and comfortable, in a quiet corner, on the sofa or in bed, with the television turned off. It is suggested that you stick to the same time every day to develop a reading routine.
- Encourage them to ask you about any words they are unsure of in order for you to explain their meaning

- Even when a child reads independently, get them to discuss what they have read to you each night, in order to maintain their retelling comprehension skills.
- Ask your child questions based on the book that they have read- refer to the bookmark for Key Stage 2.

“Reading without reflecting is like eating without digesting.” – Edmund Burke

