

Reading Guidance for Parents

Yellow, Green and Blue Book Bands

Your child is starting to become more fluent and is gaining confidence when reading books. The following guidance is designed to help you support your child with reading at home. The suggestions are not designed to be used every time you read with your child, but to give you an idea of what skills your child needs to develop within these book bands.

Phonic and other Reading Strategies

Your child should be encouraged to use their phonic skills (sounding out and blending the sounds) as the main approach for reading. In the texts your child will be bringing home you may come across 'Sight Words'. These are keywords which are not easy to sound out, and therefore need to be learnt as sight vocabulary.

Sight Words

the	to	I	no	go
into	he	she	me	be
we	was	you	they	all
are	my	her	said	have
like	so	do	some	come
were	there	little	one	when
out	what	why	their	people
Mr	Mrs	called	asked	could
would	looked			

Your child may now

- Be able to blend more complex words such as CVCC (consonant, vowel, consonant, consonant e.g. mend, lost).
- Be able to blend more complex words such as CCVC (consonant, consonant, vowel, consonant e.g. drum, pram).
- Have some experience in reading 2 syllable words (e.g. picnic, bedroom).
- Use the 44 units of sound to read and write words.
- Recognise a greater number of sight words.

Book Skills and Response to Books

You can also help your child by encouraging them to:

- Take more notice of punctuation.
- Have a go at unknown words using their phonic knowledge, picture clues and the meaning of the story to help them.
- Start to add expression.
- Discuss the characters and plot more fully (for example, describe a character or express an opinion about a book).
- Answer questions about the book to show that they have understood what they are reading.

These skills can also be practised when you are reading aloud to your child.

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 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 prepares children for the sounds and patterns in language and provides a vital part of their language development. 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. At school we regularly read books aloud to pupils from YR to Y6, and we would encourage parents to continue enjoying the pleasure of sharing stories, even after their child has become an independent reader.

Fostering a love of Reading

It is also valuable for children to see adults enjoying reading themselves. Showing your child that you enjoy reading a book or newspaper can help them to see the purpose for reading, and encourage them to become a reader. Other ways to engage children as readers include listening to CD stories, visiting the library or a book shop to choose their own books and sharing books with their siblings. Reading should never be a chore. Helping your child to develop a love of books now will help them to develop as independent readers as they get older.