



Believing and Achieving Together

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We are having a focus on improving pupils reading throughout the school.

Reading is such an important skill to master and is essential for all aspects of school. To improve the standard of reading further we will target the following:

- decoding words [reading words by sight or breaking them into sounds to build the words];
- comprehending language [what does the sentence mean].

In school adults hear all children read at least twice every week with some children reading daily. We need your help to make sure that all children read regularly by hearing your children read at home. Research proves that children who do not read regularly struggle with all aspects of education and other subjects - 40%, or 4 in every 10 children, who do not read at home do not achieve the expected standard in reading in KS2 SATs. When you are reading at home can you ask your child questions about the page they have read to you, predict what might happen next in the book and talk about the whole story [summarise].

Please remember to mark your child's home-school [purple] diary when you read together at home. When a child has read 3 times at home they get a sticker for their bookmark and when the card is full they get a 'lucky dip' prize.

Reading at home with your child

- Set aside some time.

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- Find somewhere quiet without any distractions - turn off the TV/radio/computer/ mobile phones.
- Sit close together.
- Encourage your child to hold the book themselves and/or turn the pages.
- Point to the pictures.
- If there are pictures, or illustrations, relate them to something your child knows. Ask them to describe the characters or situation or what will happen next. Encourage them to tell you the story by looking at the pictures.
- Encourage your child to talk about the book.
- Talking about the characters and their dilemmas, actions or problems helps children understand relationships and is an excellent way for you to get to know each other or discuss difficult issues. Give your child plenty of time to respond. Ask them what will happen next, how a character might be feeling or how the book makes them feel.
- Reading the same book several times builds children's confidence and 'practise makes permanent' helping children remember words they see.
- Ask your child to choose a book. Sharing books they have chosen shows you care what they think and that their opinion matters. This means they are more likely to engage with the book.
- And lastly, above all - make it fun!

If you have any questions please ask your child's teacher.

Thank you, in advance, for your help in hearing your child read regularly.

Best wishes,
Mr O Flitcroft
Headteacher