



Welcome to our Collins Big Cat information meeting



Reading fluently and with good comprehension is key to your child's learning. Children who read regularly and enjoy a wide variety of books, are better writers and better communicators.

Reading gives children a rich vocabulary and the ideas and information they gain from reading can be used in their writing.

As you know we have recently implemented a new reading scheme – Collins Big Cat.

This is an award winning scheme made up of real books written by real authors. Each book has its own colour and this is a nationally recognised scheme.

Collins Big Cat has:-

- * over 500 books for 3-11 year olds
- * half of the books in each band are non-fiction, covering science, geography, history and much more
- * poetry books, plays and traditional tales in addition to fiction/non-fiction
- * a range of Progress books for children who struggle with reading
- * comprehension and reader response activities included in every book to get children really thinking

The books vary in a number of ways, including content, layout, size, vocabulary and length, to give the children a rich diet of literature.

Progress through the bands is not automatic and it is important to ensure that children have secure understanding so that they remain in control of the text and motivated as they move on to more challenging texts.

Fluency is key to allow your child to focus on their comprehension of the text. If a book is too difficult, children can become frustrated, and may have to concentrate so hard on reading the words that they lose the enjoyment of understanding the story.

A word of caution. You will be doing your child no favours if you rush them through books. It is not a race, it is a journey!
Children learn at different rates. If children are rushed through the books they will not achieve the enjoyment and understanding necessary. Books that they find too difficult will soon put them off reading.

How can you help your child?

Listen to your child read regularly and ask questions about the book to check comprehension, making comments, as required, in the reading record.

Ideally reading every day with your child is best, however three times a week should be the minimum. Discussions about the books read, and understanding of issues covered, help to greatly improve reading skills. There are suggested activities at the back of each book; completing some of these will really help your child to get the most benefit from their reading.

Each child has a book mark which relates to the book band giving the 'I can' statements appropriate to that colour.

Reading tips:

- * hearing your child read little and often is more beneficial than a long session once a week
- * think about how long you read for - the amount of reading time should not exceed your child's span of attention
- * pick your timing carefully – it is best not to embark on a reading session when your child is tired
- * every child is an individual - try not to compare your child's progress with other children or with brothers and sisters

Reading volunteers - can you help?

If you have some time to come into school to hear readers you would be warmly welcomed. Each volunteer will be allocated to a class teacher who will then select children who would benefit from extra reading to an adult.

If you need any help with supporting reading in school, please speak to the class teacher who can give you guidance.

Thank you for attending.

We are happy to answer any questions you may have.