



## Early Reading skills

This is a brief guide to explain how you can help your child in the early stages of reading. At Barford St. Peter's we use a scheme called Oxford Reading Tree. The scheme is colour banded and each child moves through the scheme at a rate that is appropriate to their needs. The books have tips for reading together and what kind of questions you might ask.



### Oxford Reading Tree Picture books

These are picture books with no words that introduce early reading skills such as sequencing events, talking about the character and using inference and deduction skills. When sharing these books with your child encourage them to respond to the pictures by explaining what is



happening. Talk about how the characters might be feeling and about what might happen next before you turn over the page. Once you have shared the story encourage your child to retell as much of the story as they can (some books have a story map at the back to help). Respond to your child's ideas by repeating them back and adding to them to introduce more challenging vocabulary.

### Oxford Reading Tree Books with words

All the early books that your child will be given will be phonetically decodable. By the time they get their first book with words they will have been introduced to all the single letter sounds using the Jolly Phonics scheme, where each letter sound has an action. They will be able to use this knowledge of letter sounds to decode words. We will also have practiced blending sounds together to make words. Some words can be 'tricky', when a single letter or blend is not making the sound it should e.g. 'was'. The children will be introduced to these tricky words in our phonics sessions and will gradually build up a sight vocabulary as the year progresses. The words are included (in bold) in the phase 2 and 3 sheets.

## **Routines**

As reading books are shared at both home and school, reading books and reading diaries need to be in your child's book bag every day. Books are changed each Monday and Thursday and the children will also choose a library book on Friday. Rapid reading progress is made when children read 'little and often', please take 5-10 minutes each day to share your child's reading book and write your comments in their reading diary. If your child is very tired or reluctant to read, read the book to them or talk about the story and characters. It is also really helpful to practice Jolly Phonics sounds and key words at home as well. We would ask you to take care of our books and if a reading book or library book is lost or damaged we would please ask that the book is replaced.

We hope that this information is helpful. If you have any queries at any time please do come in and ask or put a note in your child's reading diary.

Happy Reading!

