

## Parent Information Sheet

### Help Your Child With Reading At Home

*Reading is possibly one of the most important skills your child can learn. A good book is cheap, accessible for all, fun, exciting, informative and can even transport you to another world. However, reading will also help your child access learning at school. By continued practice at school and at home, children will quickly develop the skills needed to be confident readers as adults.*



#### Make Time To Read Together

Reading with your child is one of the best ways of helping them learn and develop. As you get used to reading out loud, experiment with changing your voice. Your child will love to hear the different voices and will be a good model for them when they become readers.

- **Babies** – Share books with your baby as soon as you can. Cloth and board books are an important starting point. It also gives parents a special time with your child. Bath time books can also be fun.
- **Bedtime** – A story before your child goes to bed will help your child wind down and relax before sleep. It can also help during quieter times in the day.
- **Picture Books** – Picture books are essential to the development of Literacy. Talking about the pictures and asking questions (your child and you) helps your child understand the text.
- **Range & Variety** – Your child needs to have an experience of a variety of books, so that before they start to read for themselves your child will be familiar with a range of vocabulary styles such as humour, descriptions, information, rhymes & poetry, stories, dialogue and everyday language.
- **Repeat** – It might seem boring to you, but children like and need to share books again and again until they know the story off by heart. Children learn by repetition.
- **Actions** – Act out or include actions while sharing texts EG: If there's an elephant in the story, use your arm as a trunk and make an elephant noise.
- **Point** – Point to words as you read. This will help your child learn where the words are coming from. They might also learn to recognise a few simple words along the way. You might even want to hold your child's finger and help them track the words as you read.
- **Ask Questions & Talk** – Ask your child questions and make comments as much as possible and encourage your child to respond. Your child will learn a huge amount from talking about books and it will also help with conversation skills.
- **Vocabulary** – Don't be afraid to use words that are new to your child. This will help your child learn new vocabulary and understand meanings of complex words. This in turn will help their spoken and written language.
- **Technical Words** – Teach your child the technical names of different parts of the book – pages, spine, front cover, back cover, title, author and illustrator. Talk about how books are made and published.

- **Mobile** – Take a book wherever you go. A book can fit in a bag and can be handy to help entertain your child.
- **Accessible** – Books don't have to be expensive. Charity shops, car boot sales Amazon and Ebay have a range of good quality second hand books at reasonable prices.
- **Library** – Enrol your child with the library. At St Anne's we are lucky to have a library at the bottom of our drive.
- **Finish** – Aim to finish a book. Your child needs to learn that a story has an ending. It will also help your child understand that it's worth staying around for things to find out how things finish.
- **Adult Reading** – It is important to continue reading to and with your child throughout primary school. They are never too old to read with an adult.
- **Role Model** – Be a reader yourself. This will encourage your child to read and become readers as adults.

### Individual Home Reading Books From School

Your child will be given reading scheme books from school. You should aim to hear your child read 3 or more times a week - your child needs time and repetition to learn to read. Make sure you write in your child's home reading record. Comments about your child's progress or problems they are experiencing will help your child's teacher support you and lets them know how your child is progressing at home.

#### Things to say and do:

- **Talk** - What is happening? What can you see? Talk about what is happening in the pictures before you read the text.
- **Phonics** - Use phonics as the main strategy for reading unknown words. Identify 'tricky words' inside the text - see the parent help sheet 'Help Your Child To Read Using Phonics' for further information.
- **Re-read** - Once your child has worked out the words on the page, encourage them to re-read the sentence again. This will help with fluency.
- **Meanings** - Discuss the meaning of words. Use a dictionary to get your child used to exploring words for themselves.
- **Alternatives** - Discuss alternative words. For example, 'big'. Ask your child to think of another word that means the same, e.g. 'huge' (use a thesaurus when old enough).
- **Predict** - Make predictions. What do you think will happen next? What makes you think that?
- **Predict** - Start at the end of the book. What do you think has happened before this point? Why do you think that?
- **Feelings** - Discuss feelings. How do you think the characters are feeling? What has made them feel this way?
- **Settings** - Where is the story set? Have you read another story with the same setting or by the same author? For example, 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen and 'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson are both set in the woods.
- **Problems** - Discuss the problem in the story. What has happened? What went wrong?
- **Resolutions** - Discuss the resolution. How was the problem solved? Is there another way it could have been resolved?

- **Fact or fiction** - Is this book a story book or a non-fiction book? How do you know?
- **Evaluate** - What have you learnt? What do you know now that you didn't know before reading the book? Did you like the story? Why? What was your favourite part of the book? Which character did you relate to? Why?
- **Expression** - Encourage children to use expression when reading, especially for the voices of different characters.
- **Punctuation** - Discuss the punctuation on the page, for example, exclamation marks. Ask: what are these for? What should you do when you see an exclamation mark?
- **Focus** - You do not always have to read the entire book every night. Focus on 2 pages and talk about the characters, setting, and plot in a lot of detail. You might want to take it in turns to read so your child can hear how you read.
- **Silent Reading** - As your child becomes more confident, encourage your child to attempt to read quietly in their head.
- **Reading Aloud** - Older children should still be heard to read out loud. The strategies used and questions asked when they learning to read should be continued to make sure your child understands the texts given to them or that they are being given challenges.
- **Adult Reading** – It is important to continue reading to and with your child throughout primary school.
- **Role Model** – Be a reader yourself. This will encourage your child to read and become readers as adults.
- **Praise** – Remember to praise your child for their efforts.