

Reading Guidance for Parents



Leaflet 4 - Independent Readers

Your child is now selecting books from the library, and is able to read more confidently and independently. However, even though your children may spend more time reading quietly to themselves, parents still have an important role in helping them to continue developing their reading skills.

You can help your child by

- Encouraging your child to read at home.
- Listening whilst your child reads.
- Keeping reading sessions short and light-hearted.
- Sharing a book and reading it aloud with your child, modelling expression and fluency.
- Sharing books, reading sections each, especially if your child wants to tackle a more difficult text.
- Recapping any words that your child found difficult.
- Giving your child lots of praise.
- Discussing what has been read. You may find the questions in this leaflet useful.

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. It 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 bedtime stories (or at any other time!), even after their child has become an independent reader.

Using the questions provided

As your child becomes more confident with reading, they should be encouraged to spend time reading quietly and independently. However, it is also important that your child has the opportunity to discuss what they have read to demonstrate their understanding and to enable them to think more carefully about the text.

In this leaflet we have included a range of questions which can be used and adapted when discussing texts with your child. Please use your own judgement when choosing questions, bearing in mind the comments about keeping reading sessions light and enjoyable, and the age/ reading ability of your child.

Fiction Books

Questions about characters

What does look like? Use parts of the story to explain how you know this.

What sort of things does get up to?

Why do you think that behaves in the way that he/she does?

What have you learned about? Where did you get this from?

Would you like to have as a friend? Why/why not?

How did feel at the beginning/middle/end of the story? How do you know this?

Do you feel that you are in any way similar to? In what way?

Do you think that changed in any way during the story? How and why did these changes happen?

Why do you think said "....."?

Questions about settings

Where do the main events take place?

What effect does the setting have on the story? When do the main events take place?

Does the timing of these events have an effect on the story? Why do you think the author chose the settings that he/she has? Do you think that the settings are well described? Why?

Can you select some good description and say why you think it is so effective?

General questions

Does what you have read in your book today make you want to carry on reading? Why/why not?

What main events have taken place in your book? What caused these events to happen?

What was the result of these events? What do you think may happen next & why?

What part of the story do you think is the funniest/saddest/most interesting?

How do you think the story will end? Why do you think the book is called...?

Did anything in the book make you think about something that once happened to you?

Do you think that the pictures help you to understand the book better?

Do the pictures make the book more enjoyable? How? What questions would you like to ask the author?

Would you recommend this book to other children?

Would it appeal to all children? What sort of children do you think would like it?

Non-fiction Books

What have you learnt from your reading today?

Who do you think would find this book most interesting and useful? How is the information arranged on each page?

How does the way that the information is set out help you to understand it?

Here it says (point to the contents page) is on page ... What do you think that page will be about?

How would you use the index to find something out?

Could you suggest any ways in which your book could be improved?

Poetry

Can you find out who wrote this poem and when it was written? What pictures did it make you think of as you read the poem? What is the poem about?

What is the poet trying to do or say? What is it about the poem that you liked?

How do you think the poet is feeling about what they are writing about?

What 'poetic features' can you identify? (rhyme, rhythm, alliteration etc)

Did the poem remind you of anything else that you have read? Does the shape the poem makes on the page, or the sounds it makes when you read it, add to the message?