

WORKING TOGETHER

We believe that parents play a vital role in helping their child learn to read. School and home working in partnership creates the perfect setting for encouraging a love of reading. We appreciate the commitment parents give in helping their children to become confident readers.

REMEMBER...

Print is all around us. Even when time is scarce, you can read with your child e.g. signs in the street; labels in the supermarket; the TV page in the newspaper; and recipes.

If children are losing interest in reading, it may be that they are more interested in magazines, information texts or comics. These interests should be encouraged, as should regular visits to the library. Try to help your child to discover the 'wide world of reading' and to enjoy texts of all kinds. Don't restrict your child's reading materials to only books. It is good for children to read a wide variety of texts.

It is also important that children see adults around them reading for a variety of purposes. This gives the message that reading is important in everything we do. To ensure that your child's reading development continues to move forward, we would encourage parents to question them about what they are reading.

Encourage and praise your child for their efforts. Make comments when they have finished reading their book (e.g. Well done! I like the way you...).

Supporting the confident reader

If your child is a confident reader, you may wish to allow them to read to themselves. However, you should encourage your child to talk to you about the book they are reading.

What can I do to help my child?

It is crucial for readers to develop their understanding of the messages the authors give in books, to extend their reading and share their enjoyment of the text. The following questions will provide some ideas that you can extend to suit individual needs:

What kind of book is it (fiction, non-fiction, fantasy, information etc)?

Who is the author/illustrator/publisher?

Have you read any other books by the same author?

What made you choose this book?

What did you learn from reading the blurb before selecting the book?

Was the book as you expected? Why? Why not?

Was there anything you disliked about the story?

At what point did you decide you liked/disliked the story? Why?

Did you notice anything special about the language used in this book?

In your own words, describe an exciting or favourite part of the story?

Was the story straightforward? Were there any surprises?

Was there more than one story happening at the same time?

Did you get to know the characters straight away or did they develop as the story progressed?

How has the author shown you how this character is feeling?

Would you recommend this book to anyone in particular? Why?