

WORKING TOGETHER

In Years 5 and 6, parents still 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.

This stage is important for your child as a life-long reader. If they are interested now, it is likely that they will continue to enjoy reading and all the benefits that it brings. Through Years 5 and 6, children will still benefit from your help and interest. Confident readers have reached the stage where they no longer wish to read to an adult and want to read silently to themselves. To ensure that the child's reading continues to develop, we encourage you to discuss with your child what they are reading.

Children of this age like to collect facts and, whilst they are doing this, they are improving their reading. Joke books and poetry books may be appreciated – they can be dipped into occasionally. You might give your child a subscription to a magazine that reflects their interests. There are also junior supplements in some newspapers – 'First News' is a newspaper dedicated to children. The other side of reading is getting into and enjoying a good children's novel. Libraries, book shops and school can help you with selection, but at this stage it is mainly your child who will choose.

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 our lives.

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. On the next page are some ideas and questions that you can extend to suit individual needs.

About the text

Describe in your own words...

From the information, can you write a set of instructions for...?

Can you give some examples to support your ideas?

About the organisation of the text

How do headings help you when you scan the text? What do they tell you?

What else do you do to help you to scan the text efficiently?

How can you distinguish between formal and informal writing?

Give two features that are typical of this type of text (diary/report/letter etc).

About the writer's use of language

Why has the author used this phrase/feature?

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

In this part of the text, why did the author use an exclamation mark/italics/capital letters/bold type etc?

What is the author's style? What features help you to identify this?

About the writer's viewpoint

How do you think the writer wants you to feel about the character? What makes you think this?

Which article or letter would most make you change your mind?

Whose viewpoint is being presented here?

How does the text relate to other texts, cultures or historical traditions?

Which other stories deal with similar issues (e.g. social, moral, cultural)?

What would the author have needed to research before writing the text?

What are the features of this setting (e.g. language, environment, attitudes etc)?