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Reading Books

Dear Parents/carers,

In line with government changes to reading, we have chosen a new phonics programme called 'Unlocking Letters and Sounds' that will be taught across the school. As we are following the new scheme, we have had to change how our reading books are organised. We no longer have colour banded books. However, we still have our decodable books which have been placed into phonics phases. We would like to thank our PTA who purchased some decodable books from the new programme for us.

Your child will have one decodable book in their book bag which will have a sticker on the front saying what phase the book is in. When the children are confident and fluent readers within the phase, the teachers will move the children into the next phase. Developing your child's reading skills is a team effort to enable them to become fluent readers. With this in mind, we will be changing children's books once a week once they have read their books a number of times.

1. To help them with their decoding skills. Can you encourage them to read it fluently? This might mean reading it a few times so they get used to the words they can read.
2. For fluency- read the book again, this time encourage your child to use a reading voice with expression and intonation.
3. For understanding. Do they understand all the words in the book? Are there any new words you can talk about? Can they answer questions about the characters, the events or the information?

Please record when you read with your child in their reading record book and return it to school every day in their book bag. The more you can read with your child at home the more confident they will become and the more progress they will make. We are hoping that you will read with your child at least 5 times a week. We are continuing our '150 Club' challenge so that we can celebrate all the reading they do at home. Children will be sent to the office to collect a raffle ticket. Winners will be chosen every term and will receive a prize.

The children will also choose a book from the book corner to share with you over the week and this will be changed within the school week once the book has been returned.

The children will continue to read with an adult in school during our scheduled guided reading lessons.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Happy Reading!

Top Tips to support reading at home

1. Encourage your child to read

Reading helps your child's wellbeing, develops imagination and has educational benefits too. Just a few minutes a day can have a big impact on children of all ages.

2. Read aloud regularly

Try to read to your child every day. It's a special time to snuggle up and enjoy a story. Stories matter and children love re-reading them and poring over the pictures. Try adding funny voices to bring characters to life.

3. Encourage reading choice

Give children lots of opportunities to read different things in their own time - it doesn't just have to be books. There is fiction, non-fiction, poetry, comics, magazines, recipes and much more. Try leaving interesting reading material in different places around the home and see who picks it up.

4. Read together

Choose a favourite time to read together as a family and enjoy it. This might be everyone reading the same book together, reading different things at the same time, or getting your children to read to each other. This time spent reading together can be relaxing for all.

5. Create a comfortable environment

Make a calm, comfortable place for your family to relax and read independently - or together.

6. Make use of Wootton Bassett library

Visit when you're able to and explore all sorts of reading ideas. Local libraries also offer brilliant online materials, including audiobooks and ebooks to borrow.

7. Talk about books

This is a great way to make connections, develop understanding and make reading even more enjoyable. Start by discussing the front cover and talking about what it reveals and suggests the book could be about. Then talk about what you've been reading and share ideas. You could discuss something that happened that surprised you, or something new that you found out. You could talk about how the book makes you feel and whether it reminds you of anything.

8. Bring reading to life

You could try cooking a recipe you've read together. Would you recommend it to a friend?

Alternatively, play a game where you pretend to be the characters in a book, or discuss an interesting article you've read.

9. Make reading active

Play games that involve making connections between pictures, objects and words, such as reading about an object and finding similar things in your home. You could organise treasure hunts related to what you're reading. Try creating your child's very own book by using photos from your day and adding captions.

10. Engage your child in reading in a way that suits them

You know your child best and you'll know the best times for your child to read. If they have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) then short, creative activities may be the way to get them most interested. If English is an additional language, encourage reading in a child's first language, as well as in English. What matters most is that they enjoy it.