

How to support your child's reading at home

We want to ensure that children who are not able to attend school during this time are still having every opportunity to read at home, so we have created some helpful tips and advice for parents to help support their children with this.

- **Make books a part of family life** (Have books exposed to children and encourage them to read with you-even if it's only for ten minutes!)
- **Get them interested in what they are reading!** Help your child find the right book for them. It doesn't matter if it's fiction, poetry, comic books or non-fiction.
- **All reading is good** – Don't rule out non-fiction, comics, graphic novels, magazines or leaflets. Reading is reading and it's all worthwhile.
- **Get comfortable!** – Snuggle up together somewhere warm and cosy, whether it's in bed, on a beanbag or on the sofa. And make sure your child has somewhere comfy to read on their own too.
- **Ask questions** – To keep them interested in the story, ask your child questions as you read. Start with 'Where did we get to last time?', 'Can you remember what's happened so far?' and 'What do you think will happen next?'
- **Read favourites again and again** – Encourage your child to re-read the books and poems they love. Re-reading helps to build fluency and confidence.
- **Enjoy bedtime stories** – Read with your kids at bedtime as often as you can. It's a great way to end the day and to spend valuable time with them.
- **Make it practical!** (Encourage children to read recipes and help you with the baking or cooking.)

Why is reading so important?

Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures.

How can I choose books suitable for my child?

At school, teachers provide children with suitable level books to suit your child's reading ability. We appreciate your child may have finished their school reading books so here are some tips for guiding your child towards the right text at home:

As a rule of thumb, you would expect a child to read a book with about 95% accuracy if they want to read it to themselves. Less than that, and it's likely that they're missing out, or misreading too many words for them to make sense of the story. It is fine if you are reading these books aloud to your children as it shows them what reading looks and sounds like.

When children are reading to you, introduce the 'Rule of five' to older children. Encourage them to read the first page or two of a new book. They must put up one finger for every

word they cannot read. If they get to five fingers, then the book is too hard for them and they should choose another one. Don't encourage them just to guess at words they can't read.

What should I read to my child, what should they be reading, and when?

When it comes to instilling a love of reading, it doesn't really matter what you read. The important thing is that we all help to inspire our children to feel confident and comfortable reading. Ask yourself what type of reading the book is for. Is it a book they have got from school to help practise reading and build fluency? Is it a book that they find easy to read that helps them build confidence? Is it a book for you to read for pleasure to your child?

What do I do if my child doesn't enjoy reading?

- Make sure your child isn't tired, hungry or desperate to watch their favourite TV programme when you read to them. Sit with them for a short time every day and read a book with them on a subject that interests them, whether that's cars, animals or sports. Don't expect them to read it for themselves. Just show them how interesting it is to be able to read so that they want to do it for themselves.
- For many children, especially boys as they get older, non-fiction books are more interesting than fiction, so it may be as simple as changing the type of books you are reading together. You want them to reading something that interests them. Role models are also important. Make sure boys see their dads, uncles or granddads reading, even if it's a newspaper, so that it seems familiar and they can copy their reading behaviour.
- Give plenty of praise. Let your child know how pleased you are when he or she looks at a book. Show interest in what they have chosen. Children really do develop at their own rates when it comes to reading but the more the reader, the quicker their confidence will grow.

Useful websites/reading resources for home:

- Year 3 and 4 have all been given Lexia logins and are on their own learning path to follow:
<https://www.lexialearning.com/sign-in>
- Learning packs have been made for every year group (differentiated) where your child has 5 reading comprehensions to complete
- Download audio books for children to listen to- Amazon are currently offering a 30 day free trial
https://www.audible.co.uk/?source_code=M2M30DFT1BkSH101514005W&ds_rl=1235677&ipRedirectOverride=true
- Encourage children to do a 'research project'. This gives them the opportunity to read through research while finding out things about a particular subject of interest