

“All students become confident, invested reader who see the power of texts in fostering imagination and curiosity; driving their education, personal development and success in life.”

Why should my child read at home?

One of the best ways that you can help your child to do well at school is by helping them to enjoy reading. Research shows that children who enjoy reading do better at school and that parents play a key role in helping to develop this love of reading

Continuing the habit of reading, widely, into teenage years helps teens to:

- deal with their increasingly complex world, and understand some of the adult issues they will have to grapple with
- share and see how others have found solutions to problems
- develop their vocabulary
- broaden their imaginations
- improve their writing
- gain confidence when speaking.

How can I help my child read?

- **If you have five minutes:** Ask your child to read you the instructions for a recipe. Read leaflets, information on packets or use a TV guide to read what's on or what programmes are about.
- **If you have fifteen minutes:** Ask your child to read a short article from a magazine or newspaper to you. When they have finished reading, check their understanding by asking them to summarise what they have read. Identify any new words and practise spelling these out loud or to use them in a sentence
- **If you have thirty minutes:** Read a chapter of your child's book with them. Discuss what has happened and ask them to make a prediction about what will happen next. Make a 'book list' of all the books your child has read and enjoyed and why they have enjoyed them to help them to choose new books in the future.

Reading Strategies:

- Listen to your child read.
- Model the process of reading by reading to your child by using different tones of voice and pausing when a punctuation mark is reached.
- Take it in turns to read a small section each
- Ask your child to summarise what they have read at the end of each page or chapter.
- Ask lots of 'Wh' questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example, 'what do you think Harry is feeling?'
- Encourage your child to sound out words they find difficult.
- Define new words and ask your child to use them in a sentence

What can I do if my child doesn't want to read?

- Link books and reading to films or video games they know and enjoy.
- Recommend adult-themed books that would be appropriate.
- Use technology such as a Kindle or iPad.
- Make reading an everyday habit. Ask them to read cooking instructions, letters in the post, menus etc.
- Listen to audio books (freely available via the school's electronic library)

Further information:

<https://www.literacytrust.org.uk/>

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/>

<https://www.readingrockets.org>