

A Guide for Parents

READING

Reading at Pottery Primary School

In terms of reading, we want your child to be able to:

- Enjoy reading and see it as a pleasurable leisure activity, as well as a means of accessing information and finding out how to do something.
- Have the reading skills necessary to read a range of text types for pleasure and for information.

To be confident and competent readers, children need to have access to a range of reading experiences:

In Reception and KS1 (infants) children work progressively through colour banded books and these are monitored by the class teacher. The main schemes within these bands are Oxford Reading Tree and Rigby Star supplemented by a mixture of other books. In KS2 (juniors) each classroom has a selection of year group free readers. These comprise of different genres and authors to allow a diversity of reading experiences. Please see website information about the Government age expectation and the standard of reading and comprehension required by the end of each year.

Changing Books

In Reception and Year 1 we aim to monitor reading records regularly, and change their books accordingly.

From Year 2 onwards children are responsible for changing their own reading books, with their reading records being monitored when the child is heard read. Generally, children in KS2 select their own reading material, from suitable age related class books.

There are daily slots for independent reading and shared story time. Teachers allocate time to hear your child read one to one as necessary and will use the valuable support of adult helpers and teaching and learning assistants to support this. For those children who need extra support with their reading we have allocated Teaching Assistant support.

Guided Reading

Each class, from Reception to Year 6, has a Guided Reading session daily. The class teacher focuses with one small group each day, and tailors the teaching to their needs. This is an opportunity for the teacher to hear readers, and teach reading skills (either decoding or comprehension as appropriate).

The other children within the class will engage in independent learning activities, which may be reading based or linked to learning in other areas of the curriculum.

Teachers will hear your child read individually in addition to their focussed weekly guided reading session. This will not always be from their home reading book. Less able readers will be listened to more frequently. Most classes have parent and/or teaching assistant support for reading.

Reading at Home

At Pottery Primary School we know how important it is for teachers and parents to work together to give your child the best start. Reading together at home is one of the most important ways in which you can support your child's development. It is the key to accessing learning and success.

As you share books you are helping develop your child's reading skills and also showing them how important and enjoyable reading is. To support this at Pottery Primary School each child is expected to read at home regularly whether that is to an adult (for developing readers) or independently (for fluent readers). Parents are asked to record the date and pages read in the reading record with any useful comments.

Supporting Reading at Home

1. Find a comfortable place to sit together that suits you both
2. Try to read for at least 5 to 10 minutes a day and once over the weekend. Encourage it as a pleasurable experience.
3. Find some time to talk about the book as well as reading it. Start with the title, look at the cover and briefly chat about what you might find inside. At the bottom of each page, encourage your child to predict what might happen next.
4. Read to your child. You can help your child to understand the emphasis of particular parts of the story.
5. Encourage your child to retell the story you have just shared. This will give you an idea of how much they have understood.
6. Do not condemn the book as 'too easy' or 'too hard'. Children need a range of reading materials. Any 'easy' book helps them to relax with reading. A difficult book can be read to your child. Both are important.
7. If your child misreads a word without changing the meaning, e.g. 'Dad' for 'Father', accepts it. If they hesitate, repeat a word or leave one out, say nothing provided the meaning is not lost.
8. If they say a word which does change the meaning, or they are simply stuck, you can help them by Pointing to the picture if it is relevant, asking a question to remind them of the context, e.g. 'Where did they say

they were going?, re-reading the sentence up to the unknown word to remind them of the context or miss the word out, or read to the end of the sentence then go back - "can you guess the word now?"

After Reading

Talking about the book with your child at the end will help your child in their enjoyment and understanding of the book.

- Did you enjoy that book? Why? Why not?
- Who was your favourite character? Why?
- Which part did you like the best? Why?
- Was there any part you didn't like? Why?
- Would you choose this book/author again?

My child is a good reader. Can I still help?

YES! Although children will often want to read in their heads when they become fluent readers and you do not need to insist on them reading aloud, there are still many things that you can do:

Discuss with them what they have read - about the character, about the plot, about the important parts of the story, about what they have learnt from the information, about their feelings as they read the story... For example;

- Which part of the story did you like best? Why?
- What do you think will happen next?
- Would you like the character as a friend? Why?
- What do you think the character should have done when..?
- How do you think the story will end?
- Was the information detailed enough?
- What new facts have you learned?
- Would you read another by the same author?

My child won't read, no matter what I do. How can I help?

- Read to your child as much as possible
- Do not make an issue out of it
- Talk to your child's class teacher
- Working together will help

Do not just read books.

Encourage your child to read newspapers, TV guides, comics and magazines. Ask your child to find out information from Internet, cookery books, read road signs and information in the community. Join the Library! Record these in your child's reading record as a reading activity - it all counts!

Keep In Touch With School

Any worries or problems please contact your child's teacher to discuss these.