



WHAT IS FLUENCY?

When children enter Year 2 they are required to read fluently. Fluency is the ability to read smoothly and automatically, with expression and attention to punctuation.

Pace – the speed at which you read

- The goal is to read at “just the right” pace.
- Reading not too fast and not too slow (at approx. 90 words per minute).



Phrasing – chunking [the words] together with meaningful phrases

- Reading in phrases and not words one at a time.

Sarah drove to the shop and bought some tomatoes.

Intonation (Expression) – reading with feeling in your voice.

- Changing your voice to match a character
- Reading like you speak (not like a robot)
- Moving your voice up and down in appropriate places e.g. BANG or “Who’s there?”



Punctuation – reading with attention to punctuation.

- Stopping at full stops
- Pausing briefly at commas
- Making your voice go up for question marks
- Showing excitement for exclamation marks
- Recognising speech marks and changing the voice independently
- Pausing for an ellipsis.



How can I help my child to become more fluent?

Ask your child to read a book more than once – the first time allow them to make mistakes, read it slowly and sound out words. The second time, ask them to read it quicker; they should have remembered the words they found tricky and therefore read more smoothly. Read it back to your child, modelling phrasing and intonation. The third time, ask your child to read it again, imitating how you read. This will help to build fluency as your child will soon begin to employ these skills independently.