



Harrow Gate Academy Reading Commitment

The ability to read ensures success in school, work and life!

Research tells us reading is a vital skill and there are many links between reading and future life success.

- There is a significant positive relationship between enjoyment and attainment- pupils who read more are better readers!
- Children who read for pleasure make more progress in maths, vocabulary and spelling compared to those who rarely read.
- Reading for pleasure could be one important way to help children raise their educational standards.

The ability to read is essential and we ask you to help your child become the best reader that they can be!

You can help by:

- Listening to your child read their school reading books as often as possible- three times a week as a minimum!
- Asking them a range of questions about the book and discussing what they have read - use the bookmark we have sent home to help you generate questions.
- Talking about new and unknown words together.
- Making reading a part of your daily routine; reading aloud, sharing books at home and encouraging them to read on their own.

We promise that we will:

- Provide an appropriate bookmark with top tips to help your child with reading.
- Ensure that your child brings home a decodable reading book that they will be able to read.
- Share any information with you that allows you to support your child as they become a more able and fluent reader.



7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home

Shared reading is a great way to develop children's language and communication and to boost their reading skills. Regular reading routines can offer lots of opportunities for learning during school closures.

1 Concentrate on reading quality (it isn't all about reading lots!)



Don't worry too much about the 'what' and 'how' of reading each day. Books are great—but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions on a webpage can all be great too. Following a recipe to make some cupcakes is valuable reading. Be on the lookout for reading, wherever it is!

2 Ask your child lots of questions



All reading matters. Shared reading is about 'reading with', not just 'reading to' (even for older children). So, 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?'

3 Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read



If it is a book, look at the front cover—or the last chapter—and talk about what might happen next. Look for clues in the book and be a reading detective! For example, 'can you see the bear on the front cover? Where do you think he will go?'

4 Ask your child to summarise what they have read



When you've finished reading, talk about what happened. Acting out the things that happened in the story or describing the big idea of a chapter is really fun and maximises learning. For example, 'can you remember all the things that happened on the bear hunt?'

5 Ask your child to write about what they have read



Write, or draw pictures, from anything you've read! Big writing and pictures are even more fun. For example, use an old roll of wallpaper to make a treasure map with clues from the stories you've read together.

6 Read and discuss reading with friends or family



Make books a part of the family. Encourage your child to share them with a relative or friend, over a video call. Laugh about them when you are making meals together. For example, 'I hope the tiger doesn't come to tea today!'

7 Maintain the motivation to read



Talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Your child is on an amazing journey to becoming a reader. Put them in the driving seat and have fun on the way! For example, 'choose your favourite story for bedtime tonight.'

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