



Shared Reading

Reception Class

St. John the Evangelist R.C. Primary School
Billingham

Sharing books

Our shared book policy begins in the nursery when you and your child will have been encouraged to borrow books from school to "share" at home. Once your child begins school this sharing of books does not end - it is very important to keep up this experience not only for enjoyment but to make books and therefore reading important. There is a lot more to learning to read than progressing through a reading scheme and those children who read a lot of stories and have books at home are much more ready to begin to learn to read.



Sharing books = a few tips

1. Read to your child making sure he can see the pictures and the print. Children need to know that it is the writing that tells the story.
2. Point along the line from left to write as you read. Reading from left to right is obvious to us but not to a beginning reader.
3. Let your child talk about the pictures and the story to develop an understanding of what is written.
4. Ask him/her what they think might happen next - prediction is an important skill in learning to read.
5. Let your child tell you the story even though at first he/she may be making it up or reciting it by heart at first. As your child learns to read you will notice that they begin to pick familiar words out and letters. This is a gradual process and for some develops more quickly than others.
6. Read the story once if your child is keen to listen to it again. Memorising the story is a crucial part of beginning to read.
7. Always choose a time when you have time to give - it should be a special time not squeezed into an odd moment. Also if your child is tired let him/her listen and enjoy. Once a reader always a reader!

Choosing books - a few tips



Choosing books can take place in the classroom each morning when you bring your child into school. This is also an ideal chance to share books with your child while you wait for school to begin. There are reading scheme books in the classroom that can be read there but should not be taken home. When choosing a book some lend themselves to "sharing" in the early stages rather than others e.g.

1. Is the print large and clear enough to follow?
2. Is the book attractive? Even the cover? Any books looking a bit the worse for wear should be pointed out to the teacher.
3. Are the pictures interesting and colourful?
4. Is there any rhyme and repetition? All children like this it makes it easier to join in. Even though you are looking for these things let your child have his/her say - they must be interested.

Book bags

Most of your children will have already been using a book bag in Nursery. If these need renewing they can be purchased from class teacher at the cost of £4.50. Jotters are kept in the bag to record books read. Pictures can be drawn as in the Nursery however the object of the exercise is to share books and full time school is much more tiring than part-time nursery so if your child prefers not to draw you can write the name of the book and the date so there is a record of the homework. Later your child may want to write the name of the book himself/herself.



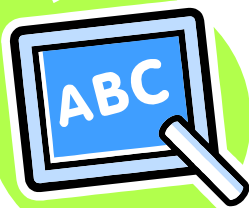
Reading - everywhere

Library:- We have close links with the local library at school as you will know from the story reading sessions. Books are expensive and the library is a good free resource for your child. Even very young children can have their own tickets and choose books themselves.



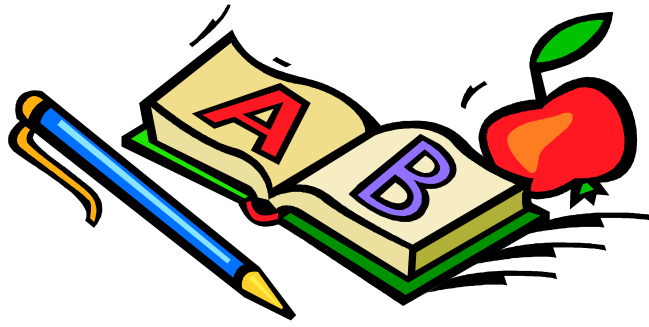
- ❖ Buying books:- Be selective choose books to share and enjoy. One new book bought every few weeks will grow into a special library. These books will make your child feel like a reader as they are read and re-read.
- ❖ Book club:- About twice three times a year we hold a book club in school. You will receive details nearer the time. It is an opportunity to buy good quality books and the school will also benefit as for every book you buy the school will receive some free.
- ❖ Out of school:- Print is everywhere! Look for names to read together e.g. street names, road signs, names in shops and names on vans and lorries.

Learning letter sounds



that

Your child will have already started learning the letter sounds the "Jolly Phonics" way in the nursery. In Jolly Phonics the 42 main sounds of English are taught not just the alphabet sounds. For each sound there is an action helps the child remember the sound the letter makes. In Reception class the learning of these sounds forms the basis of the weekly homework. As the letters are taught the children are given a sound sheet to stick into a Sound Book at home. Words beginning with that sound can be put in also. When the first set of letters have been learned they can be built up into simple 3 letter words. The first set are s, a, t, l, p, n. - they have been chosen because they make more three letter words than any other six letters. This is quite a difficult skill to learn and needs a lot of patience find repetition to understand - but it does come eventually! At first sounds with more than one way of being written are taught in one form only e.g. the sound ai as in train is taught. The alternatives "a-e" (cake) and "ay" (day) are taught later. This enables the child to write independently and confidently from a very early stage.



Identifying the sounds in words

If your child is going to write independently he/she will need to hear the sounds in words and to write the letters for those sounds. When your child is able to hear the sounds in words he/she may bring words home to practise their new skill. These words are for you to call out. He/she has to listen for the sounds and write down the letters for those sounds. This is the first step towards your child becoming an independent writer.

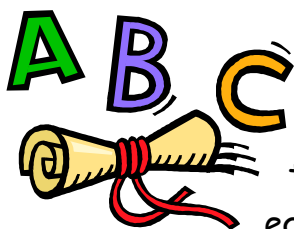
Blending

Blending is a process of saying sounds in a word and then running the letters together to make the word, e.g. c-a-t is cat. It is a technique your child will need to learn and it will improve with practice. Some children take longer than others. To start with you should sound out the word and see if your child can hear it. The sounds must be said quickly to hear the word. It is easier if the first sound is said slightly louder e.g. b u s. Practice will also be given with this in homework sheets.

Tricky words

Some words cannot be sounded out or spelt correctly by listening to the sounds in them. In Jolly Phonics these are called "tricky words" and have to be learned. As your child becomes more fluent at reading and writing he/she will be taught how to cope with the "tricky words."

Letter Formation



It is very important that your child holds the pencil correctly. If the hold starts incorrectly it is very difficult to get it right later on. The correct letter formation for each letter can be seen in the booklet. Many of the letters

Finally

This all sounds a great deal of work, but it goes in stages over a considerable period of time. Little and often is best. Your child may be tired after school but don't worry. It is better to leave it than to push too hard. There is no doubt that effort on your part at this stage is well worth it.

