

St. Peter's Primary School



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Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Reading with your child

Reading is one of life's most essential skills. At St Peter's Primary School, as with all places of education, we hope that all children will develop a love of books, enthusiasm for promoting their reading skills and grow to be confident, competent readers, which in turn prepares them well for the rigour of further study at Key Stage 3 and beyond.

As a parent or carer, you play a vital role in supporting your child's reading development: our partnership between home and school is *essential* for success with this life skill. Your child's reading experience is much more than the reading book which comes home from school. Reading is happening all the time in our classrooms and across school. It is taught in English lessons, but children are practising and using their reading skills constantly across all subjects and in life in general too.

It is important that all primary school children continue to read with an adult, regardless of their age and reading ability. Once children are able to read fluently, it would be helpful to discuss the text with them, to ensure comprehension and engagement with their reading material and to discuss the choices an author may have made.

How can parents support children?

Parents can support this 'reading journey' through regular reading at home. Reading to and with your child every evening for at least ten minutes can make a dramatic difference to a child's achievement within school and their future success. Studies have shown that reading with your child 3-5 days per week (compared to 2 or less) can improve your child's reading level by up to 6 months. Reading with them 6-7 days per week can improve their reading level by up to 12 months. Children who aren't being read with regularly are at great risk of falling behind their age-related expectations. For those children they then need to undergo specific strategies at secondary school to accelerate their reading and bring them more in line with their age related expectations.

As such, we request each child to read a minimum of 4 times per week out of the school context and for this to be written in their reading record. For those children where this is not always possible, opportunity to read during break or lunch will be available if they would like to in our outside reading area or the school library.

Children over the Accelerated Reader stage of 3.5 can record their reading in their records themselves and parents can sign each entry. For children reading phonics books and up to the level of 3.5 books, we ask parents to support the strategy and read with their child and record the reading in their records please. Alongside levelled reading books we would like children to have more choice with what they read so are encouraging children to '**Read for Pleasure**'. They will have regular DEAR (drop everything and read) sessions where there are no set rules about what they read; magazines, children's newspapers, comics, catalogues will be examples of what children could read.

To support the development of reading for enjoyment, there will be opportunities in school to visit the school library and children will be encouraged to take a book out to read either in school or at home. **Reading areas will be further developed outside for children to use at breaktimes** if they wish and the library will be made available at lunchtimes.

If you have any difficulties in supporting this important strand of learning, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance. We appreciate your on-going support in this matter and feel certain that if we work together we can gain the very best outcomes for all our children at St Peter's.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S McAtear
Head of School

Here are some tips for reading with your child at home:

1. Make time to read, even ten minutes a day. It's the perfect opportunity to snuggle up together and enjoy a book.
2. Choose different types of books.
3. Take turns to read.
4. Talk about the book- asking your child questions.
5. Visit the local library together and enjoy book-talk about your favourite texts.
6. Read comics, web site, environmental signs, instructions in fact anything at all.
7. Bring reading to life. You could try cooking a recipe you've read together.

Alternatively, play a game where you pretend to be the characters in a book, or discuss an interesting article you've read.

