

Helping your child to read – a parents' guide

Reading is one of the most important skills your child will learn at school. This booklet is just a guide to give you some ideas about how you can continue to help your child in developing their skills in reading and become fluent, confident and engaged readers.

How is reading taught at school?

At Thriplow Church of England Primary School we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and the National Curriculum. When children are first learning to read, we follow the Sounds Write scheme in order to prioritise the teaching of phonics. As the children develop their skills they are taught the key skills of reading through whole class shared reading, through small group guided reading sessions and by listening to them individually. There is a strong emphasis on reading for pleasure and children are encouraged through taking part in whole school events such as World Book Day, shadowing book awards and developing the love of reading through a strong emphasis on the reading culture in class. There is time set aside to listen to stories being read to them by their teachers, paired reading or through the use of learning stories off by heart and performing stories.

New for Ants and Butterflies 2021:

- Reception and Year One children will receive a greater range of reading material.
- They will receive books that are linked to their current phonics teaching week.
- They will receive a 'colour and read' sheet that will be closely linked to their phonics. It is helpful to read these a couple of times over the days as developing fluency is a key skill to develop in every reader.
- They will receive a 'traditional' reading book that may contain the odd word that they cannot decode using their phonics. Parents are encouraged to support the reading of these words to encourage understanding of the overall meaning of the text.
- What if your phonic book is too easy? Parents/carers are encouraged to support the children in learning to spell these words either orally or written form. Talk to your child's teacher.
- What if your phonic book is too hard? Try to read short sections of the book. Re-read and develop confidence. Please do come and talk to us about any elements of reading that you have questions about – this is a new

process for us so please bear with us as we get the system up and running.

Resources for parents:

Please refer to this document for further useful information such as how to access free online Sounds Write books and the app available for ipads.

<https://www.sounds-write.co.uk/sites/soundswrite/uploads/files/70-soundswriteresourcescovid19.pdf>

Starting out:

Ants, Butterflies and Bees

Parents play a vital role in supporting the development of their child's reading. The relaxed and informal atmosphere at home is the ideal place for your child to extend and practise new reading skills. Reading together encourages enjoyment of reading and allows your child to experience a wide range of books. In Reception and Year One, children will receive a range of books and reading material over the week including ones closely linked to their phonics teaching phase.

Top Tips:

- Find somewhere comfortable to spend at least ten minutes of uninterrupted time together away from

distractions such as the television on a regular basis.

- Let your child sit next to you so that you can share the text.
- Discuss the book and, if appropriate, explore the reasons it was chosen.
- Read to your child many stories with rhyming words and repeated lines. Invite your child to join in on these parts.
- Make sure there is lots of talk about the pictures to encourage use of these as clues to meaning. When first starting out, the children will be given books without words. It is important they can tell the story from the pictures and gain understanding from this alone.
- Read to your child modelling good expression as you read.
- Let your child follow from left to right, following words with a finger.
- Build confidence by giving plenty of praise and encouragement.
- Accept that children love re-reading favourite stories.
- Make sure there is plenty of discussion about the text, asking your child to predict at suitable stopping points, e.g. What do you think will happen next? Ask your child to tell you what has happened in the story.

Getting stuck on a word:

It is best not to let your child struggle at an unknown word. Encourage them to sound out and blend the sounds together using their phonic knowledge. Encourage them to use the finger to say the sounds from left to right. Always encourage self-correction, but do not allow your child to become discouraged. Some books they receive will be enrichment books - these may require adult support to read the odd word.

Supporting reading skills and developing fluency:**Bees and Caterpillars**

Once your child is able to decode accurately it is important to encourage them to continue to build on their skills.

- Once your child can read, sometimes share the reading. This will allow them to gain more understanding from the text and allow them to read longer more challenging reads without losing the meaning of the text.
- Discuss how punctuation on a page represents ways of speaking through modelling it for your child.
- Dig deeper into a story through posing questions that begin with why or how. This will develop your child's inference skills.

- Model how to read with expression and ask your child to see if they can copy the same way you read it.
- Let your child see you reading or using a dictionary or thesaurus.
- Show your child your own favourite books and explain why you enjoy them.
- Listening to audio books is a great way to help develop a love of reading.

Supporting the fluent reader:**Caterpillars, Mayflies and Dragonflies**

The fluent reader is no longer learning to read but reading to learn.

Parents can help their child by:

- Discussing the books your child reads with him or her. Talking about a book can increase the pleasure and enhance the meaning gained from the text. For example, discuss the storyline, setting, characters and the character's behaviour. Encourage your child to evaluate critically and discuss likes and dislikes.
- Discussing favourite authors.
- Comparing different writing styles e.g. comics, newspapers and advertisements.

- Visiting the library.
- If you can't get to the library, Cambridgeshire libraries have lots of e-books and e-comics available to read online.
- Discussing what might happen next in a book by making deductions from the text. Discuss how the book might end. Talk about the feelings and motives of the characters where appropriate. Encourage your child to support their views by making reference to the text.
- Don't forget that even fluent readers enjoy and benefit from being read to. It helps them prepare for the more complex language they will meet as they widen their range of reading material.