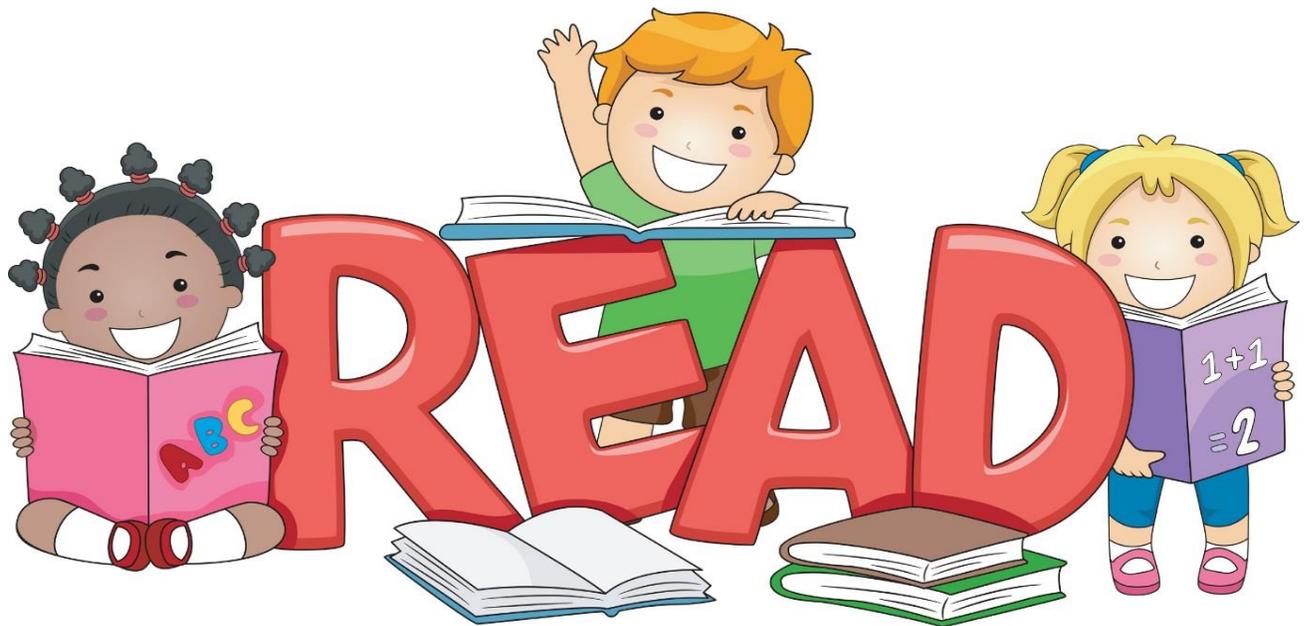


Richard Wakefield C.E. (VC) Primary School



Aim High, Work with Pride, Forever Learn

READING AT HOME
Early Years and Key Stage 1
A PARENTS' GUIDE

When children are starting to learn to read there is a great deal that parents can do to support this development. Your interest and guidance at this early stage will help the children now, but will also be a major factor in children becoming independent and motivated readers in the years to come.

Perhaps the most important message is that reading involves much more than decoding individual words on a page. Whilst decoding skills are important, these are only a part of the reading process. Children (and adults) read in order to understand meaning. Decoding skills must be learned in the context of understanding the meaning of the text.

Parents reading with children at home have an ideal opportunity to do this. At school we aim to teach the children all the skills that they need in order to become confident readers, but **research has shown that the most successful readers are those whose parents regularly (daily if possible) support this process at home.**

Most parents or carers are able to create quality time to share a book individually with one child. This is the time when children can develop a much deeper understanding of the books that they are reading. Rather than reading at home being 'reading practice', it should extend and enrich the reading experiences of school. One of the most powerful ways in which parents can do this is to show real enthusiasm themselves. Your sense of excitement about books and stories, your anticipation about what will happen next in a story and a discussion about your own likes and dislikes, will greatly influence your child.

**Books and stories open up new worlds of excitement
and imagination for children!**

Helping Your Child with Reading

The following points are to support you when reading at home with your child.

- Make sure you are relaxed and comfortable during the shared reading session.
- Set aside 10-15 minutes a day to carry out a reading session. Short regular sessions are far more beneficial than longer, infrequent sessions.
- Talk about the title of the book and ask what it might be about. Is it a fiction / non-fiction book?
- If, after several seconds, the child has not said the word, encourage them to look at the first sound, the picture, the context or the grammar of the sentence. The idea is to encourage an educated guess and to keep the flow of the reading going
- If your child says something nearly right to start with that is fine. Don't say 'No. That's wrong,' but 'Let's read it together' and point to the words as you say them. Boost your child's confidence with constant praise for even the smallest achievement.
- Ask questions about the characters, the plot, the ending of the book, and whether your child enjoyed it.
- Encourage talk about favourite authors and illustrators
- If your child is reluctant to read, then share the load. Take turns reading a page each. Reading aloud to your child provides the perfect opportunity to model fluency and expression.
- Record any reading sessions in your child's reading diary. Note down any words / sounds that your child found difficult. It is equally important to record any successes too.
- Before reading, recap / summarise what has happened in the book so far. Being able to summarise the key points of a story is an important skill for children to develop.
- Our reading diaries have a helpful section in the middle that provides tips to help support your child with reading. There is also a list of word and sounds for the children to practice. These can become part of your daily reading session. (pick 4 or 5 a night to focus on and keep practicing until these are mastered before choosing another 4 or 5)
- Most of all, making the reading session enjoyable and have fun! We want children to develop a love of reading and this stems from having a positive attitude towards reading from an early age.

Questions to ask your child when reading - Key Stage 1

Before reading the book:

- Can you point to the title? Or What is this? (Pointing to the title)
- What do you think this story will be about? What might happen in the story?
- What do we call the writing on the back of the book? (Blurb) or What does the blurb tell us?

During the reading of the book:

- What is happening in the pictures?
- What has happened so far? Is it what you expected to happen?
- What might happen next? How do you think the story might end?
- What sort of character is....? Is he/she friendly/ mean/ nice...?

At the end of the book:

- Did you like this book? Why? (Encourage children to develop their opinion about books by encouraging them to explain their reasons)
- What was your favourite part? Why?
- What was the most interesting/ exciting part of the book? Can you find it?
- What sort of character was....?
- Why did that character do ... (give a situation/ event from the story)?
- What happened in the story? Can you summarise the key points from the story / chapter?