



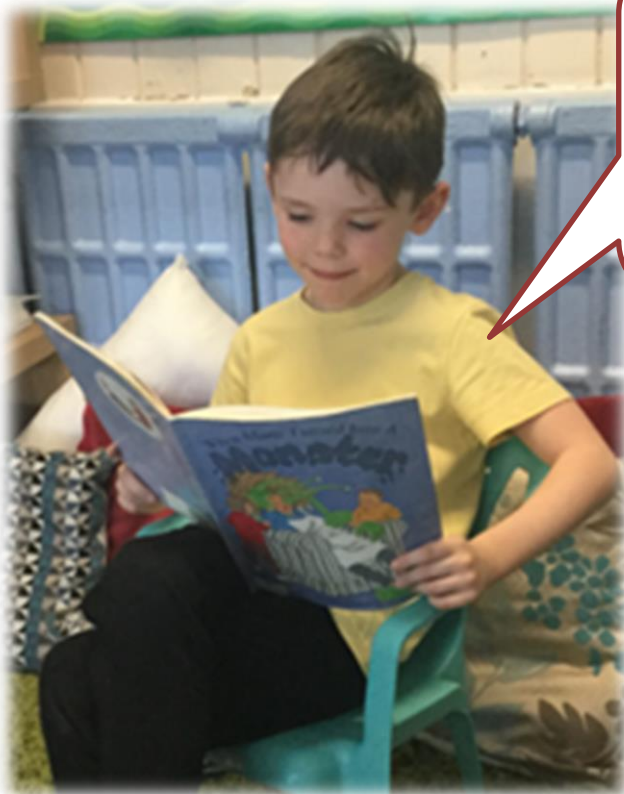
Reading:

Tips and advice on supporting your child and hearing them read.



Why is reading so important?

Reading is a vital tool for learning and for life. Research shows that children who enjoy reading achieve better at school and go on to greater success as adults. Helping children to make progress in reading is most effective when it is done in partnership between home and school. Any support you can give will improve your child's progress. We appreciate that families are willing to offer this support but may sometimes be unsure how to go about it. Therefore, we offer some tips here which we hope you will find useful. Please remember, teachers are available to give advice wherever it is needed.



I like reading at home because my parents help me to sound out words that I find tricky.

Ronnie Year 2

**TODAY A
READER,
TOMORROW A
leader!**

Setting the scene:

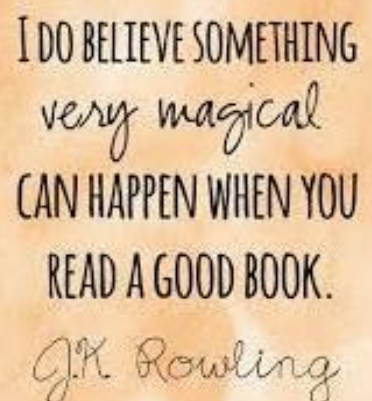
Before you start reading...

- Choose a time that suits you both; some families enjoy reading as part of a bedtime routine, others prefer to take time after dinner to relax together with a book.
- Find a quiet place, free of distractions such as televisions, games consoles and siblings!
- Make yourselves comfortable. Snuggle up on the sofa or in bed; choose a comfy chair or soft cushions which are only used for special occasions.



Reading at home...

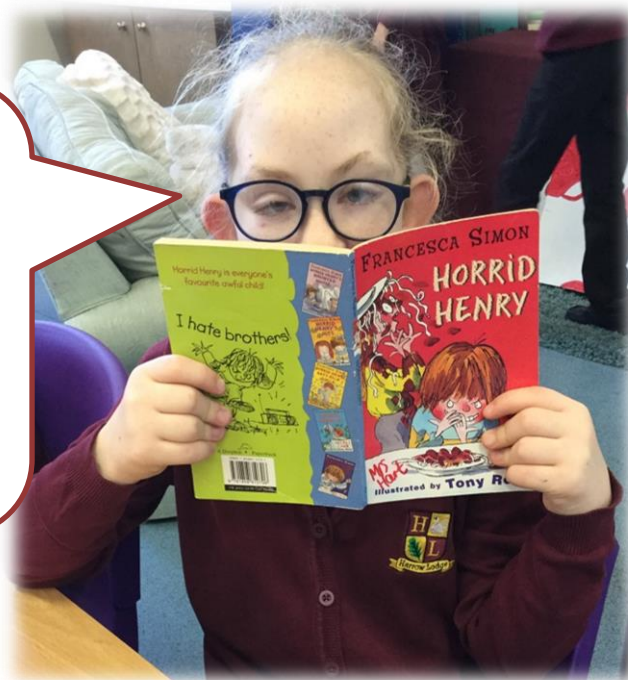
- Try to read for at least 10 minutes a day and once over the weekend. Encourage it as a pleasurable experience.
- Find some time to talk about the book as well as reading it.
- Start with the title, look at the cover and briefly chat about what you might find inside.
- At the bottom of each page or end of each chapter, encourage your child to predict what might happen next.
- Encourage emergent readers to point to the words as they read, to keep track of where they are.
- If your child gets stuck, ask what word would fit best, ask them to sound it out. For older children, it might be a good idea to keep a dictionary nearby to check the meaning of unknown words.
- Take part in 'book talk': What happened in the story? Does this remind them of anything in their lives or anything they have read before? Did they think the book was funny or sad? Did they enjoy the book?
- Encourage your child to retell parts of the story you have just shared. This will give you an idea of how much they have understood.



I DO BELIEVE SOMETHING
very magical
CAN HAPPEN WHEN YOU
READ A GOOD BOOK.
J.K. Rowling

I really like it when my mum reads to me every night. She reads Horrid Henry and books about fish. If you're older, your mum should still read to you every night.

Abby Year 6



The best bit about reading at home is when mummy makes it exciting. We have a bedtime story every night and I love finding out what is going to happen.

Olivia Year 1



I don't like reading.... I love it!

In fiction books you get into the book and use your imagination. In non-fiction books you learn stuff.

Tyler Year 3



Possible questions to ask...

- Who are the main characters in the book?
- What happened in the story?
- Where did you find the information about ...?
- How do you feel about ...? Why?
- Predict what you think is going to happen next. Why do you think this?
- How did one of the characters change during the story?
- Who would you like to meet most in the story? Why?
- What does this tell about what was thinking?
- What are the subheadings for?
- What is the purpose of the writing in the boxes?
- What kind of text is this? How do you know? What will it be like? What can I expect of a book of this type?
- How has the author used adjectives to make the character funny?
- Which part of the story best describes the setting?
- What do these words mean and why do you think the writer chose them?
- Why did the author choose this title?
- Can you think of another story that has a similar theme e.g. good over evil, weak over strong, wise over foolish?
- What was the most exciting part of the story?

Strategies for developing readers ...

Help and support your child if they get stuck on any words. Try to encourage them to work it out by:

- Sounding out the phonemes (units of sound);
- Using any picture clues;
- Using the context of the sentences to work out;
- What would sensibly fit?
- Re-reading to check for meaning.

It is not always necessary to pick up on all the mistakes that your child makes — being overly picky can sometimes prevent the story from flowing. If your child misreads a word without changing the meaning, e.g. 'Dad' for 'Father', accept it. If they hesitate, repeat a word or leave one out, say nothing provided the meaning is not lost.

Reading means you can learn new things and the meaning of new words.

Sophia Year 2

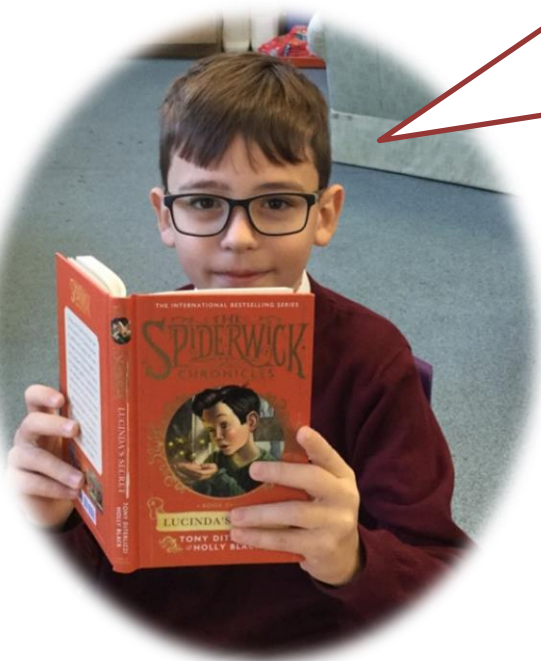


Praise and encouragement ...

Initially, forging a reading routine at home does have the potential to be stressful – particularly when your child decides that they would rather be doing something else! It is important to be generous with praise and positive words, so that children feel that their reading efforts are valued – especially if they are finding reading quite challenging.

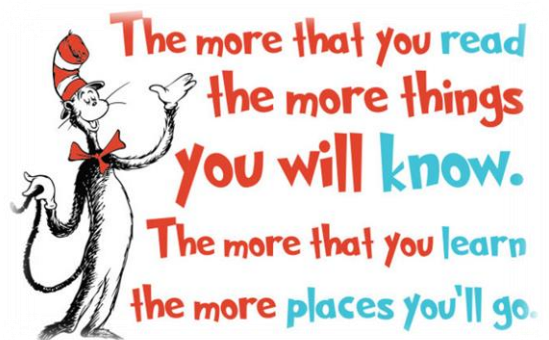
Use praise every time your child reads, even if they don't get everything right first time. A 'well done' from mum or dad can be incredibly motivating.

Remembering 'pause, prompt, praise' can be helpful: wait before you correct the mistake so that your child has a chance to get it right themselves, then give them clues, finally praise them for getting the word right – or at least for trying!



I like reading adventure books because they take me into the story and I feel like I'm in the book with the characters,

Bogdan Year 6



Choosing the right book...

*"If you don't
like to read
you haven't found
the right book"*

- J. K. Rowling

Choose any books that appeal to your child, for example, stories or information books on hobbies and interests such as football or animals. Vary your reading together. It doesn't have to be school books: newspapers, magazines, comics and games

instructions can be read together and still be part of the process of learning to read with enjoyment. Your children may keep choosing the same book because it is a favourite — this is all part of learning to read; gentle encouragement to try a different author or type of book is better than forcing you're a book onto your child.



We like reading because
it makes you clever. You
can learn all sorts of
stuff from a book.

Danish & Marie Year 4

Influencing reading...

Research shows that young people who see their mother and father read a lot are more likely to enjoy reading; to read frequently; to have positive attitudes towards reading and to believe that reading is important, than young people who do not see their mother or father read at all. In order to emphasise the importance of reading at home, try to...

- Make it obvious when you are reading; whether it is a magazine, a newspaper or from a device such as a kindle. Show your child how important reading is to your life.
- Have books and reading material on display on a bookshelf or kept in a special box.
- Visit the local library and turn it into a special trip for both you and your child.
- Buy books as birthday presents, so that they are seen as a treat – in the same way that toys are.
- Encourage family members to swap books and make recommendations to each other.

*A book is a gift you can
open again and again.*

—Garrison Keillor



I love reading because it is my passion!

Jessica Year 4

I like reading books because you can travel to lots of different places and go on exciting adventures.

Thomas EYFS



I love to read to my family. My dad asks me questions about the book to know if I understand what I have read.

Jone Year 6

Recommended reading...

At Harrow Lodge Primary School, children have regular access to our local library as well as the classroom book corner and teachers and support staff are more than happy to recommend books for children, where necessary.

If you are planning a visit to the local library, or would like to know which books are suitable for your child's age and/or ability, hopefully the websites below can help with choosing a good book:

<https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/>

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/>

<http://www.scholastic.com/100books/>

<https://www.timeout.com/london/kids/the-100-best-childrens-books>

