



Reading Guidance for Parents at KS1

Parents have an incredibly important role in helping children to develop their reading skills. Initially, the focus will be on decoding – actually reading what is on the page. At this stage, little and often is the key to success, aiming to foster a love of reading for enjoyment within the child. Parents also play a key role in the development of comprehension skills – the understanding and appreciation of what is being read. We ask that you read with your child, for about ten minutes every night, and then discuss what the book is about.

You can help your child by:

- Reading regularly with your child at home.
- Supporting your child to decode or blend sounds in unfamiliar words.
- Keeping reading sessions short and light-hearted.
- Reading a book aloud at the same time as your child, modelling expression and fluency.
- Sharing books, reading sections each, especially if your child wants to tackle a more difficult text.
- Going over any words that your child found difficult.
- Giving your child lots of praise!
- Discussing what has been read. You may find the questions in this leaflet useful.

Reading Aloud to Your Child

Research has shown that reading aloud to children of all ages helps them to develop their writing skills. This is because it helps pupils to develop their knowledge of language and story structure. It also provides them with a greater range of ideas which they can use in their own writing, and gives them access to texts that may be too complex for them to read alone. At Maple Grove Primary School, we regularly read books aloud to pupils of all ages, and we would encourage parents to continue to enjoy the pleasure of sharing stories at bedtime (or at any other time!), even after their child has become an independent reader.

We hope this leaflet will help you to support your child with reading at home. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher if you would like more specific guidance about supporting your own child.

Using the questions provided

In this leaflet we have included a range of questions which can be used and adapted when discussing books with your child. Please use your own judgement when choosing questions, bearing in mind the comments about keeping reading sessions light and enjoyable, and the age/ reading ability of your child.

Story Books

Questions about characters in the story

- What does look like? How do you know this?
- What sort of things does get up to?
- Why do you think that behaves like that?
- What have you learned about?
- Would you like to have as a friend? Why/why not?
- How did feel at the beginning/middle/end of the story? Can you explain why?
- Do you feel that you are in any way similar to? In what way?
- Why do you think said "....."?

*Are any of the characters like people you know, or characters from other stories you've read?

*Have you read any similar stories before?

Poetry

- What is the poem about?
- Does the poem rhyme? If so, can you find some rhyming words?
- Do you like this poem? Why / why not?
- Does it remind you of any other poems or songs that you know? If so, why?
- How did this poem make you feel? Happy, sad, calm, angry?

Home Reading Books

In years 1 and 2, children are given home reading books which are sent home weekly. We would encourage you to read with your child as regularly as possible. Try using the questions in this booklet check your child's understanding of the text. Please remember to send these books back to school

Online Reading

The online reading world ensures children can access independent reading resources anywhere at any time. Children can access a huge range of different digital resources online in order to broaden and expand their reading opportunities. If this is something that is unmanageable, then a trip to the library will do the same.