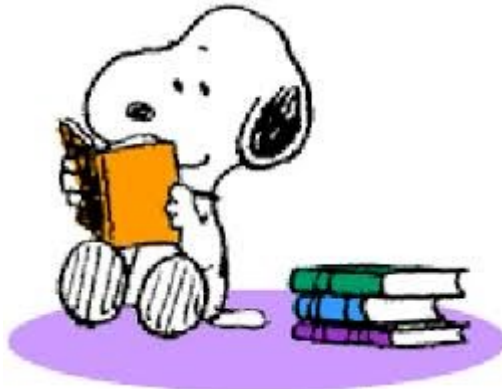


St Bernadette's Catholic Primary school



Loving, serving and growing together with Jesus

A Parents' Guide to...



Reading

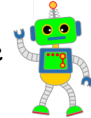
Children need to develop pleasure in reading, motivation to read, an increased vocabulary and an improved level of understanding. They will do this by listening to, and discussing, a wide range of poems, stories and non-fiction texts at a level beyond that which they can read independently. By frequently listening to stories, poems and information texts that they cannot yet read for themselves, children begin to understand how written language can be structured in order, for example, to build surprise in narratives or to present facts in a non-fiction piece.

Skills to help children to read

- **Retell a story using pictures**
- **Phonological awareness**
This is the ability to listen to and recognise sounds in spoken language - e.g.: to identify that cat starts with c and book starts with b.
- **Oral blending**
Listen to someone saying the sounds in a word. Can you work out what the word is? •
- **Letter recognition**
This is being able to recognise letters by shape and sound.
- **Blending**
This is having the ability to merge sounds together to read words.
- **Tricky recognition**
Common words that cannot be sounded out.

Ideas to help with phonic skills

- Sing nursery rhymes and songs
- Play rhyming games
- Play with magnetic letters
- Use physical responses such as clapping and tapping to demonstrate patterns in words
- Separate words into separate sounds.
- Make up your own stories.
- Dressing up and role play.
- I Spy games. Can you find something beginning with...? How many ... words can you see?
- Pretend to be a robot. 'Can you bring me your s-o-ck-s?'
- Encourage your child to segment (break up) words into their sounds and blend them (push them back together) to read the whole word.
- Pretend that you are unable to read particular words within your child's phonic knowledge and ask them to read them to you.



Tips to help when reading with your child

What is happening? Talk about what is happening in the pictures before you read.



Discuss the setting of the book. Have you read a book with a similar setting?



Discuss alternative words. Could the author have used another word instead of 'big'.

gigantic

enormous

large

Make predictions. What do you think will happen next? If your child struggles then model your own ideas and give your reasons.



Start in the middle of a book. What do you think has happened before this point?

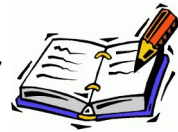


Discuss the meaning of new words in the text.



If your child can read with expression it will really bring the story to life. It will also help with their understanding of what is happening in the story. Giving your child an example of how to do this, by reading to them, will help.

What to write in the Reading record of the school diary



The Reading Record should be a positive comment on what you have shared together. It could tell us how they read the words - did they sound out and blend on their own? Did they need help? You might like to share what your child enjoyed the most. Who was their favourite character? Please send reading books and school diary into school every day. We encourage you to read with your child every day. It does not need to be a whole book - a couple of pages and a brief note are fine on busy days. Please write which pages you have read. Children that do read every day make significantly more progress than those who do not.

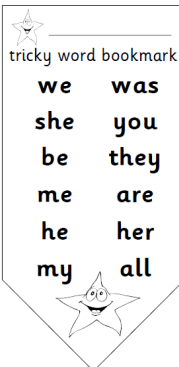
Reading for pleasure

- Allow your child access to books
- Make time to listen to your child read
- Share and read books together
- Add sound effects when reading
- Talk about the contents of books
- Re-read favourite books
- Encourage self-belief
- Encourage by example
- Visit libraries and book shops
- Allow your child to choose books for themselves
- Listen to audio books



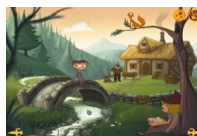
Common Exception Words

These are words that cannot be sounded out, but they are frequent, everyday words that the children need to know. Some examples of these are 'the' and 'said'. We often call these 'tricky words'. Most classes have high frequency words displayed in their classrooms for the children to see everyday and you can find them in your child's diary. They are also taught through the daily phonics session. With regular reading the children become familiar with these words quite quickly. The more a child sees a word, the more they submit it to memory. Practising these words at home regularly will really help your child to become a more confident and fluent reader.



Using pictures

The pictures are a very important part of the story, especially for younger children. Sometimes a book introduces a new word, such as the name of an animal that the child has not seen before. The picture clue will help them to read the sentence without pausing too much to work out the new word. As children become more confident, they will rely less on the pictures to read, but still enjoy looking at them.



Book Banding

In KS1 we have banded our books according to the vocabulary, and frequency of tricky words. Please do not be concerned if you think the book your child is reading at home is too easy! The books are designed to develop their comprehension and knowledge of tricky words in order for them to become more fluent readers. Please feel free to change your child's book within their banded colour as often as you like. If you feel your child is ready for the next level then please do not hesitate to talk to your child's teacher.

Be positive

Make sure you praise your child when they read. It is ok to make mistakes when reading. Negativity or too much correcting really can put a child off reading.



Give them time

Let your child try to work out the word themselves before jumping in too quickly to give them the answer. They are probably using a range of learnt reading strategies to work out the word. Sometimes they will read a word incorrectly, but not realise their error until the end of the sentence where they may then self-correct. This is a vital skill! If you do correct, give your child a little time to realise their mistake.



Reading opportunities

Let your child see you as a good reading role-model, even if it's a newspaper or a magazine. If your child has a particular hobby why not buy them magazines about it! Visit the local library and don't forget to look at the audio books too. Set aside some time during the day for reading—it is the most valuable 'homework' you can do! Perhaps, if time is difficult to come by, let your child read to a sibling. You could encourage your child to read for information. Anything that motivates them will give them the incentive to read.



Above all, reading should be an enjoyable experience for you and your child. Whatever they enjoy reading should be encouraged. The children who read regularly at home progress quickly and it helps them in school with all aspects of learning.

We hope that you have found this guide helpful. If you have any worries or concerns about your child's reading, please speak to their class teacher.