

Reading

The main reading scheme, when children start in school, is Oxford Reading Tree. This is supplemented with books from other schemes so that we can provide a wide range of text-types, including fiction, non-fiction, poetry and playscripts. We also aim to provide books to cover the wide range of interests of our children so that they enjoy reading. Some children who are finding reading tricky may also use other schemes to develop their skills at a more steady pace.



There are 23 reading stages, including the final 'Free Choice' stage where children may choose challenging reading materials from the library or home. At each stage, there is room for choice by the child, although the teacher may guide them towards widening their interests or skills. Books will be changed regularly when your child has shown that they have good accuracy and understanding. It is important that your child brings their reading book every day to school in their book bag. Children will be heard to read in a variety of contexts, such as from their Reading Book, in Topic lessons, in Guided Group Reading sessions etc.

Each half-term, your child will be assessed by the class teacher. If they are reading accurately, fluently and with understanding, they will move to the next stage. Not all children will be ready to move to another stage each half-term and may need further practice. If children are having difficulty learning to read, they will receive further input at school and parents will be contacted about any concerns.

We want reading to be an enjoyable activity for children. Children in the EYFS have Story Sacks and the rest of the school have a weekly opportunity to borrow books from the library. All classes have stories read to them so that they can enjoy hearing the written word and learn to recognise the authors and types of books they prefer.

Home reading is very important in helping children to enjoy reading, and to develop a range of skills. We would like children to read for short sessions to an adult at home at least 5 times a week. Also, sharing books with your child is very valuable as it can be so enjoyable for them, whether it is talking about the pictures, reading in turns or you reading to them. Children will have a reading diary to record their reading. It is important that comments are always positive. Also, children will be asked to complete book reviews and talking to someone at home can help them complete this task.



We are often asked by parents how they can help their child with reading. In the early stages, they will need to learn the key words of their Oxford Reading Tree stage. They will also be learning how to blend letter sounds to read words phonetically. As they move up to other year groups, they will continue to build up a bank of sight vocabulary and phonic skills (both for reading and spelling). Just as important as reading words accurately, they also need to be able to understand what they are reading. Parents can help by asking questions such as Who/What/ Where/ When. The next stage is asking Why questions, predicting what might happen next, and suggesting what might have already happened. Parents of more able readers will especially find that it is the questions that help their child develop further. This list of questions may be helpful (obviously only using one or two at a time):



1. *What has happened in the story so far?*
2. *What do you think will happen next?*
3. *Who is your favourite character? Why?*
4. *Who is the character you like least? Why?*
5. *Do you think the author intended you to like / dislike this character?*
6. *Does your opinion of this character change during the story? How? Why?*
7. *Find 2 things the author wrote about this character that made him / her likeable or unlikeable?*
8. *If you met one of the characters from the story, what would you say to him / her?*
9. *Which part of the story is your favourite / least favourite? Why?*
10. *Would you change any part of the story? How?*
11. *Would you change any of the characters? How?*
12. *Which part of the story was the funniest, scariest, saddest, and happiest? Find some evidence in the text to support your opinion.*
13. *Do you think the title of the book is appropriate? What would you have called it?*
14. *What is the genre or text-type of the book: - Sci-Fi, Who done it, historical, fantasy, adventure, horror, comedy?*
15. *Find 2 sentences, which describe the setting.*
16. *Is the plot fast or slow moving? Find some evidence in the text, which supports your view.*
17. *If the author had included another paragraph before the story started, what do you think it would say?*
18. *Would you like to read another book by this author? Why?*

If parents have any concerns about their child's reading, please contact the class teacher.