

Supporting Reading at Home

A guide for parents

Introduction

Reading at home is a fantastic way of supporting your child's learning. Discussing your favourite books and providing meaningful and independent reading opportunities outside of the classroom can foster a lifelong love of reading.

This leaflet aims to provide parents with practical advice for supporting your child's reading skills during their time at Wentworth Church of England Infant and Junior School. The school is committed to improving core Literacy skills and believes partnership between school and home is crucial for improving the outcomes of our pupils.

Choosing the Right Book

Enjoyment—Pupils should be encouraged to express their opinions on books and begin to discover their preferences for different authors and genres.

Supported—Both school and parents should be involved to regularly monitor school and home reading.

Directed—Pupils, parents and school should have a clear understanding of a child's reading level so that reading is personalised.

Challenge—Pupils should enjoy extending their learning through reading more challenging texts.

Variety—Choosing different genres and a range of text types including fiction, non-fiction and poetry.

Reading at Home

How long should my child read for?

The school recommends every evening for 10-15 mins. However the key to improving reading skills is **quality** not quantity. Setting aside 20mins to introduce, read and reflect on a book (using questions on the reverse) will develop both reading and comprehension skills.

What can they read?

Children should be encouraged to read a variety of texts, particularly in meaningful contexts, e.g. shopping lists, notices and signs and web pages. It is important to emphasise that reading can be fun! More able children may prefer to read **independently**, whilst **reading to** younger pupils will help to engage them in books.

Are there any resources I can use to help?

The reverse of this leaflet contains a range of questions that parents can use to support a child's reading at home.

Is there anything else I can do to help?

Most people enjoy reading in a calm and quiet environment—try to avoid distractions such as TV, games consoles and build reading time into your daily routines.

It is important to model the positive values of reading. If pupils find reading fun and enjoyable, then they are much more likely to become engaged and learn. Reading is not a punishment or a chore, but something that can be used to encourage quality family time together.

Keeping a record

Reading records are used as a link between school and home to support and monitor reading. We value comments made by parents and encourage the use of reading records to both celebrate successes and raise any issues related to their child's reading skills.

Outcomes

Reading and comprehension skills are crucial for all subjects. The school firmly believes that pupils at Wentworth achieve well because of the commitment of teachers, parents and pupils to improving reading skills.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support in this area and invite you to come and discuss any issues related to reading with your child's class teacher.

With your help, we hope to build on our successful reading results and inspire a life-long love of reading for all our pupils!



Reading Prompts and Questions

Ask them to finish off these sentences...

- I think that in the end...
- I think that... will happen.
- My ending would be...
- The problem was...
- The characters are...
- The main character is...
- My favourite character is...because...
- The best bit was...
- In the middle of the story...
- The story setting is...
- At the end...

Your child should be prepared to answer questions about the main characters in the story AND speculate about the events in the story;

- Do you think...?
- Why do you think...?
- What would you do if...?

Your child should be prepared to relate the events of the stories to themselves, for example if in the story a child gets caught out in the rain without a coat on, you could ask your child :

- How would you feel if YOU got caught in the rain without your coat on?
- How would you feel if you went in a time machine and travelled back to Egyptian times?
- You can make any of your own questions up related to the story or text you are reading.

Talking About Reading

Talking through a book together can be just as important as listening to your child read. Here are a few things for you to consider.

Before reading try discussing:

- The cover including: the author, illustrator, title, and the cover picture.
- Ask the children to predict: what do you think the book will be about? What do you think will happen in the story?
- Whilst you are reading try discussing:
 - What has happened so far?
 - Why do you think that happened?
 - What do you think will happen next?

Many parents feel frustrated when their child cannot read a word. Allow them the time to read the word using some of the strategies they have learnt at school. The best way is to sound out the word and blend the sounds together. If they have attempted it, then tell the child the word and ask them to repeat it.

When you have finished reading with your child, ask them what they thought:

- Was it a good ending?
- Which part did you like best? Why?

Talking through a book can be done when you are reading to your child, when they are reading to you, or even when a child is more able and reading independently.

Wentworth Church of England Infant and Junior School

Literacy

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