

## The Importance of Reading

In Year 2 we want to encourage you to support your child in their reading journey and the following tips may help when sharing a book together:

- Try to get in the habit of having your child read to you every day. Choose a quiet, undistracted time and snuggle up.
- If it is a new book, always start by having a look at the book's cover, title, pictures and characters.
- When your child tries to 'sound out' words, encourage the use of phonetic letter sounds rather than 'alphabet names'.
- Don't pressurise if he or she's reluctant. If your child loses interest, then do something else and come back to it at a better time.
- Maintain the flow. If your child mispronounces a word, don't interrupt immediately. Instead, allow opportunity for self-correction. It's better to tell a child some unknown words or give clues from the pictures to keep things moving. You could give them a few seconds, then give the sound they're struggling with, or help them sound the word out. Always give praise for finishing the page or trying hard. Be patient and try to make it fun!
- Remember, there's more to being a good reader than just being able to read the words accurately. Always talk to your child about the book; about the pictures, the characters and ask them what was their favourite part. You'll then be able to see how well they've understood and help them develop better comprehension skills.

**Remember that reading is the number-one skill for parents to encourage in school. It sets children up to succeed. Here are some other useful suggestions to support reading.**

- Look up definitions of words together - you could use a dictionary, the internet or an app.
- Visit the local library. All reading is valuable - it doesn't have to be just stories. Reading non-fiction and poetry can also be great fun.
- Of course, reading doesn't happen all at once. Nor is it just one skill. It's a whole collection of skills. It includes decoding letter sound relationships to make the words, sight word recognition and then comprehension skills. We use the phonics method by teaching children to read by linking sounds (phonemes) and the symbols that represent them (graphemes, or letter groups). But there are lots irregular words that don't follow the rules of phonics. So those ones have to be learned by sight. We call these the Common Exception Words. The list of these words can be found in the 'Useful Information' section of our class page.
- Remember to encourage your child to read wherever they are e.g. shop signs, football programmes, magazines, menus.
- In addition, we are all aware that nowadays screens/televisions etc. are very much part of children's lives and are here to stay. You could try switching on the subtitles as this may also help your child to learn to read without them even realising.
- Another good idea is to get into the habit of reading a more advanced book or chapter of a book to your child every evening. Bedtime stories have lots of benefits. When you read to your child, you transport him or her via your voice to a different world and expose them to new words in a way that makes it easier to process. Bedtime stories encourage a love of books and expose them to vocabulary on different topics. So try to introduce your child to lots of different authors and book styles at bedtime.

Thank you for taking the time to read the information above. I hope it will help to inspire your child to develop a love of reading from a young age.

Mrs Geiser