

Thursday 16th September 2021

Reading

Dear Parents/Carers,

Here at Fairfields Primary School, we want to encourage your child to foster a life-long love of reading; not just as a necessity, but for enjoyment too. For a child to be an effective reader, they need not only to read the words on the page, but also demonstrate a good understanding of what they have read. For this to happen, they need to be able to answer a range of questions about the text they are reading and display great fluency and pace when they read.

How can I support my child reading at home?

As well as reading daily in class with their teacher, we expect your child to read at home too. Your role as a parent in the teaching of reading remains paramount to your child's progress and we ask that you:

1. Read with your child **every day**, even if it's just one page or paragraph, etc.
2. Try to aim for at least 10 minutes.
3. Question your child about what they've read (use the attached question sheet to support you).
4. Give details, in their reading journal, of what they have read (no matter what they've read – it could be a book, a magazine, a leaflet from a trip out, an ebook, road signs etc).
5. Return your child's reading diary to school **every day**.

What is the school's approach to reading?

As a school, we place great importance on teaching your child to understand what they are reading, as well as being able to read the words on the page. In addition to daily class reading time, where your child's class teacher shares a text with the children, your child will experience daily guided reading lessons, where they are heard read by their teacher and have an opportunity to further develop their reading skills. We refer to our reading skills as VIPERS (vocabulary, inference, prediction, explanation, retrieval, sequencing and summarising) and your child practises these skills during our guided reading lessons. Attached to this letter you will find a bank of reading questions, linked to the VIPERS, which you could ask when reading with your child at home to support their learning in school.

Top tips to support your child's reading at home

1. Take breaks while reading
2. Build reading into your child's daily routine
3. Encourage your child to follow their interests
4. Use technology together
5. Encourage your child to be the author
6. Chat to them to build their language skills
7. Share stories using the pictures in the book instead of the words
8. Play games using letters, sounds and words



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We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support in reading regularly with your child at home. It is such an essential part of their development as a reader and you play a crucial role in nurturing their love of reading.

Kind regards,

Miss Wilson

Reading Lead

