

### Ways to help your child

- Say how much you enjoy reading together – talk about story time as a special time in the day
- Find a quiet, well lit place to share a book, turn off any electronics
- Read regularly for about ten minutes. Little and often is better than occasional short sessions
- Try to be supportive and positive during reading time
- Read a page or two together until your child is ready to read alone

### Questions to Engage Children

- Ask why they have chosen the book
- Talk about the cover and the title, what might the story be about?
- Where does the story take place?
- Who are the main characters?
- What part of the story did you like best?
- How do you feel about .....?
- Can you explain why.....?
- Why do you think the author used these words?
- Can you think of another word the author could have use instead of.....?
- How would you have liked the story to end?



# Reading Matters

Ways to support your child's  
reading

Year 1 and Year 2

### How will your child learn to read in school?

Your child will have a variety of reading opportunities in school:

- They will listen to the teacher and teaching assistant read books aloud
- They will be heard to read individually from their reading scheme book
- They will read with the teacher and the teaching assistant in guided reading session
- They may be heard to read with a reading volunteer

As a parent, you can play a vital role in helping your child learn to read. Research has shown that children who are helped at home make better progress in school. Children who hear stories read regularly and who read aloud regularly develop a positive attitude towards reading and a love for it. Reading with your child can be fun and rewarding. It also shows that you value their efforts.

### Reading With Your Child

- Run your finger along the line under the words as you read them.
- Allow your child to turn over the pages.
- Ask questions throughout the story such as 'How is the character feeling?', 'Why has that happened?', 'What might happen next?' and 'Can you see the .....?'
- Try to relate to the events in the story.
- After the story, talk about what happened to ensure they understood the book.
- Once your child becomes a more confident reader encourage them to read with expression and fluency.

### If your child makes a mistake.....

Don't immediately interrupt, wait 5 seconds and encourage the child to have a go first. Encourage them to look closely at the text. Try asking them 'Which word might fit/make sense instead?' Encourage your child to look at the pictures for clues to help them read the sentence. If your child is still struggling tell them the word and then carry on with the story.

When reading unknown words allow your child to:

- Break up a word and sound it out e.g. c-ar-p-e-t or m-o-p.
- Look for smaller words within a word e.g. teacher= t-**EACH**-er.
- Encourage them to use the first letter of the word to help them think of a word that would fit the sentence.
- Use the shape of a word.
- Make a guess (by using the pictures, if the book has any) and check the sentence makes sense by using that word.
- Read the whole sentence to try and work out the unknown word.

### REMEMBER

Reading regularly for smaller amounts of time is more important and beneficial than reading occasionally for longer lengths. Try to listen to your child read five times a week and read to them regularly.

Learning to read is not a race through the reading scheme, children are all different and all learn at different rates. Fostering a love of reading is far more important.

The school reading scheme is a tool only. The reading scheme should open the door to a wider choice of reading e.g. researching information on the internet, magazines, comics or library books. *Record these in your reading record.*

Think of ways to make reading **fun** - you want your child to learn how pleasurable books can be. Why not try reading in the bath or reading in a darkened room with a torch?