

Helpful Hints

- Remain positive and calm with your child, even when they do not know/remember a word that they have read easily before. Simply encourage and help them to work it out.
- Set aside uninterrupted time to read with your child rather than try to do it whilst helping their younger/older siblings with other tasks.
- If your child does not feel like reading, that is fine. They may be tired from their school day and an audiobook may be more suitable, language will still be absorbed.
- There is no expectation that your child should read a whole book each evening, especially as they move up our reading scheme and the books get longer. Children will consolidate their skills by reading a range of material at a pace that suits them.



Reading Record

The yellow reading record book is for home and school use to record what your child has read and to comment on their reading. If you are unsure of what to write here are a few suggestions that we would find useful...

- We took it in turns to read the pages.
- We practised the rhyming words for fun.
- Very good expression. Well done!
- Only 2 pages of reading tonight so we discussed the pictures too.
- We discussed what might happen next
- We chose and read a book from the library.
- Very clear, independent reading today.

Westwood with Iford School



Reading Information Booklet For Parents

How do we teach reading in school?

Reading is a vital tool for learning and for life. Here at Westwood with Iford School we believe that in order for children to become able and independent readers they need to have:



- **Fluency** – children who can read at a comfortable speed with appropriate expression.
- **Accuracy** – children who can ‘decode’ words they are reading without interrupting the flow.
- **Understanding** – children who can follow the content of what they read.
- **Enjoyment and confidence**—children who will become lifelong readers because it is a useful and pleasurable thing to do.

For children to be able to decode new and unfamiliar words they need to be able to segment and blend the phonemes (sounds) in the words. These skills are taught in daily ‘Letters and Sounds’ sessions throughout Reception and Key Stage 1 as well as through reading a variety of texts in school.

Children engage in all sorts of reading activities each day, sometimes in groups, many of which occur in the course of different subjects e.g. using an encyclopaedia, locating information on the computer.

Children also join in with weekly Guided Reading sessions and one to one with an adult whenever possible. During these sessions we are able to assess the reading progress of your child.

Children learn to read by reading



How to help your child when reading at home:



- Find a quiet place away from other interruptions.
- Spend a few minutes discussing the blurb and front cover before you even open the book.
- Help and support your child if they get stuck on a word. DO NOT simply tell them the words, encourage them to work it out by:
 - Sounding out the phonemes (units of sound)
 - Using any picture clues
 - Using the context of the sentence to work it out
 - What would sensibly fit?
- Ask your child questions to check their understanding of the text e.g.
 - What was your favourite part?
 - How did you feel about the main character?
 - Which words show you that the character is happy?
 - What might happen next?
- Give your child lots of praise and encouragement.

Supporting the confident reader



Even when your child has reached the stage when they no longer wish to read to an adult and want to read silently to themselves you can still support them in their reading development. Questions about the book and the author will encourage the child to extend their learning and share their enjoyment of the book.

- What is the title of the book?
- What kind of book is it?
- Have you read any other books by the same author?
- What made you choose this book?
- What has happened so far?
- How would you like the story to end?
- Do you feel similar to any of the characters?

Use our library

Please encourage your child to use our school library. Library books can be read in addition to the school reading scheme books and can help your child to pursue a particular interest, offer variety and challenge .