

Helping your Child with Reading at Home

Welcome to the Downview guide to helping your child read at home, from Reception to Year 6 and beyond! Research shows that children who enjoy reading do much better at school.



There are many ways of helping children with their reading. But the most important thing is to keep it positive, fun and enjoyable! In school we teach reading and with your help at home, we can work together to help our children become better readers.

Please remember that we are all different, we are all good at different things and not all children learn to read easily and quickly. Progress in reading is faster if it is a pleasurable, positive experience. Listening to stories, sharing a book with an adult, sibling or friend and reading familiar books is all part of

learning to read.



Reading in School...

Our children enjoy a range of reading activities on a regular basis in school, which include:

Daily Phonics in Reception, Year 1 and 2 all children have daily phonics lessons using our Song Of Sounds phonics scheme.

Guided Reading, when your child reads with a teacher or teaching assistant and will be taught inference skills, a range of reading strategies and supported in understanding new vocabulary.



Individual Reading is when your child reads to a teacher, teaching assistant or parent helper.

Teachers record your child's progress in ongoing records at school. They will not usually write in your child's reading record book.

At home in the early stages of reading you can...

- Look at books together. Talk about the story and pictures.
- Practise the Song of Sounds sounds with the action and song-a link for this can be found on our website on the 'Parents' tab, initial sounds (Eg: s,a,t,i,p,n), digraphs (Eg: ch, sh, th) and trigraphs (Eg: igh, air).
- Sound out and blend words Eg: s-a-t , sh-i-p, h-igh-er



- Read signs and labels together around the home and when you are out and about.



- Sing Nursery Rhymes, an excellent way to hear the pattern and rhythm of words.
- Play word and sound games Eg I spy.
- Visit the library in town to borrow books-it's FREE!



When your child is beginning to read...

- Keep reading time short and positive. (10-15mins)
- Help your child to sound out the letters in words, blending the sounds to read words, E.g. th-i-ck
- Practise reading tricky words which cannot be sounded out such as; said, the, they
- If they get stuck on a word, read on, then come back to it and try again – make a guess – does it make sense? E.g. The sun _____ in the sky.
- Take turns to read a page/line each if your child is finding the reading challenging.
- **Encourage and praise** your child to read for meaning and begin to self-correct, let them try to work out words for themselves.



When your child is becoming a more independent reader...

- Encourage your child to read things not just their school reading book.
- Support and encourage your child explain the meaning of new words, and sometimes read these for them to keep the reading flow.
- Children often choose favourite stories repeatedly and this helps to grow their love of reading and develop their fluency, expression and confidence.



Remember, even fluent, confident, independent readers still love being read to!

What's new in reading at Downview?

At Downview we are passionate about our children learning to read and above all want our children to enjoy the reading process. From





day one in Reception, we aim to make reading an enjoyable, daily experience and create an environment rich in reading opportunities. We want our children to become lifelong readers. We have an incredible new library which children throughout the school can access on a weekly basis. It is an imaginative and calm space with lots of exciting nooks and crannies to enjoy reading with a friend or by themselves and the children are always thrilled when it is their time to visit.



The children are also excited about our new book vending machine. It has been used as a reward for 100 reads and is a brilliant incentive which encourages all our children to enjoy a range of books.

The Big Cats phonics reading scheme books are progressive and support our children in particular at the beginning of their reading journey. These books are supplemented with Book Box books; picture books, poetry books, non-fiction books and chapter books which are not in our reading scheme. These are rich in language and comprehension opportunities.



This year we have also introduced the Accelerated Reader program and Star Assessment, both of which help our children to find books that match their reading level and interests. Some of the books in the library are coded in relation to the Accelerated Reader program so that children can easily find appropriate books which they are able to read and comprehend confidently. Children can also select books from their classroom libraries which are matched to the Accelerated Reader levels.

Home/School reading links...

You are always **very welcome** to come in and change your child's reading book at the end of the school day, we just ask that you keep to the same colour and numbered box that the teacher has put your child on please. If you are able to come in and read with children on a weekly basis in school we would greatly appreciate your help. Please see your child's teacher if are able to spare a little time on a regular basis. Any time, however short, can make a huge difference to our children's reading experience.



As always please ask your child's teacher if you would like any further help in supporting your child with their reading at home.

