



*'Educating For Life
In All Its Fullness'*
(John 10:10)

Home Reading

at

Harewood C of E Primary School

Information for Parents and Carers



The **MORE** that you **READ**,
the more **THINGS** you will **KNOW**.
The **MORE** you **LEARN**,
the more **PLACES** you'll **GO!**
~Dr. Seuss

Reading is probably the most important skill your child will learn. It opens up a whole new world of learning and imagination, and the more you help your child at home, the easier they will find it to develop this vital skill. However, if you work, run a house, have other children, and rarely get enough sleep, it's a sad fact that reading with your child can start to feel like just another "to-do" to tick off your list.

When you share a book with your child at home, you are showing them that you think reading matters. You are giving your child your full attention and that tells them that reading is a special activity that is worth time and trouble.

Why is reading so important?

Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures.

In fact, there is evidence to suggest that reading for pleasure is more likely to determine whether a child does well at school than their social or economic background.

What difference could I make as a parent or carer?

The short answer is: a lot! Parents and Carers are by far the most important educators in a child's life and it's never too young for a child to start, even if you're only reading with your child for a few minutes a day. It has been found that reading to an adult and talking about the text for only 10 minutes a day makes a significant impact on reading development.

Building vocabulary and understanding

Learning to read is about listening and understanding as well as working out print. Through hearing and reading stories, children are exposed to a rich and wide vocabulary. This helps them build their own vocabulary and improve their understanding, which is vital as they are reading. It is important for them to understand how stories work as well. Even if your child does not understand every word, they will hear new sounds, words and phrases, which they can then try out, copying what they have heard.

As children read, you can play an important role in helping to keep them interested in books, finding out what interests them and helping them to find other books that will be engaging and fun.

Tips on Hearing Your Child Read

Here are some suggestions on how you can help to make this a positive experience.

1. Choose a quiet time

Set aside a quiet time with no distractions. Ten to fifteen minutes is usually long enough.

2. Make reading enjoyable

Make reading an enjoyable experience. Sit with your child. Try not to pressurise if he or she is reluctant. If your child loses interest then do something else.

3. Maintain the flow

If your child mispronounces a word do not interrupt immediately. Instead allow opportunity for self-correction. It is better to tell a child some unknown words to maintain the flow rather than insisting on trying to build them all up from the sounds of the letters. If your child does try to 'sound out' words, encourage the use of letter sounds rather than 'alphabet names'.

4. Be positive

If your child says something nearly right to start with that is fine. Don't say 'No. That's wrong,' but 'Let's read it together' and point to the words as you say them. Boost your child's confidence with constant praise for even the smallest achievement.

5. Success is the key

Parents anxious for a child to progress can mistakenly give a child a book that is too difficult. This can have the opposite effect to the one they are wanting. Remember 'Nothing succeeds like success'. Until your child has built up his or her confidence, it is better to keep to easier books. Struggling with a book with many unknown words is pointless. Flow is lost, text cannot be understood and children can easily become reluctant readers.

6. Visit the Library

Encourage your child to use the public library regularly.



7. Regular practice

Try to read with your child on most school days. 'Little and often' is best.

8. Communicate

It is important to communicate regularly with positive comments and any concerns written into your child's reading diary. Your child will then know that you are interested in their progress and that you value reading. It will also help the class teacher know about progress and if a book need changing.

9. Talk about the books

There is more to being a good reader than just being able to read the words accurately. Just as important is being able to understand what has been read. Always talk to your child about the book; about the pictures, the characters, how they think the story will end, their favourite part. You will then be able to see how well they have understood and you will help them to develop good comprehension skills.

10. Variety is important

Remember children need to experience a variety of reading materials eg. picture books, hard backs, comics, magazines, poems, and information books.

What we ask of Parents and Carers.

- At Harewood we ask that parents listen to their child read at least 3 times a week for a minimum of 10 minutes. (Every day would be a fantastic bonus for your child.)
- Please talk to us about reading. This maybe to say how well you think your child is doing as well as with problems or ways to help.
- Fill in your child's Reading Record with details of the pages read.
- Make sure your child has their reading book in school every day and brings it home every night.

What school will do to develop reading.

- We will provide the children with a wide range of books to read at home of an appropriate level to aid their reading development.
- Opportunities to change books for new ones will be offered. For younger children, classes will have set days to change books but the older children will be given the chance to change their books as they require.
- We will offer reading interventions and extra support for children who are identified as struggling.
- We will promote a love of reading through activities such as: reading stories, author studies, competitions, theme days, group reading sessions, class novels.

Remember

- ✓ ***Discussion and questioning*** about a book are just as important as listening to your child read the text.
- ✓ ***Re-reading a book to build fluency*** and be familiar with a text is a vital part of home reading.
- ✓ ***The school reading book should be just a small part*** of a child's weekly reading.
- ✓ ***Having a wide range of books at home*** is very important and exposes your child to the amazing possibilities reading can offer.
- ✓ ***The local library is an excellent place for your child to find out what interests them and offers them a wider choice of books.***