



Supporting with Reading at home

Reading is perhaps the most important skill taught in school as it allows children to access learning in all areas of the curriculum. It is for this reason that reading is one of our **'Golden Threads'** within school – We aim for all children to leave Woodlands as fluent readers with the skills needed to become lifelong learners with a passion for reading

While children do lots of literacy based activities at school (e.g. English, Short Burt Reading, Phonics, story times), there are lots of ways that you can support your child at home.

1. Support your child with their school reading book

All children bring home a Reading Book carefully matched to their ability, reading this book with your child at least three times a week helps them to rehearse and embed the skills they are learning in school.

Books are changed once a week to allow children to re-read the same books more than once – this is crucial in developing understand and fluency.

2. 'Red' word reading

Children also have a list of 'Red' words attached to their reading diary, these are words which children commonly come across in their reading books which are NOT phonetically decodable (cannot be sounded out). Children need to be able to recognise these words by sight so regularly reading through the list will help your child to recognise these words in their reading.

3. Share and talk about a range of books and other reading material

In addition to their school books it is important that children are given the opportunity to read and be read to. This helps them develop a love of reading and helps them to understand the importance of reading as a life skill.

Please see the tips below to help you support your child with reading at home.

1 Concentrate on reading quality (it isn't all about reading lots!)



Don't worry too much about the 'what' and 'how' of reading each day. Books are great—but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions on a webpage can all be great too. Following a recipe to make some cupcakes is valuable reading. Be on the lookout for reading, wherever it is!

2 Ask your child lots of questions



All reading matters. Shared reading is about 'reading with', not just 'reading to' (even for older children). So, ask lots of 'Wh' questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example, 'what do you think Harry is feeling?'

3 Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read



If it is a book, look at the front cover—or the last chapter—and talk about what might happen next. Look for clues in the book and be a reading detective! For example, 'can you see the bear on the front cover? Where do you think he will go?'

4 Ask your child to summarise what they have read



When you've finished reading, talk about what happened. Acting out the things that happened in the story or describing the big idea of a chapter is really fun and maximises learning. For example, 'can you remember all the things that happened on the bear hunt?'

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