



Helping Your Child With Reading – Parent Handbook



Early Reading

At Regent Farm First School, we use the Read Write Inc phonic approach to teach children to decode words.

From the first stages of reading they are taught the skills of blending and segmenting and are encouraged to use this as their main approach to reading unfamiliar words. Alongside this, they are taught high frequency words. These are the common words that do not completely follow the phonic rules and patterns that the children learn at the early stages of reading e.g. the, my, you. Your children may bring these words home to practise.

We want your child not only to learn to read but to develop a love of reading and a deep understanding of texts. In order to achieve this, we introduce children to a range of books so they can see all that books have to offer through fiction, non-fiction and poetry.

We ask all our parents/carers to send their child's reading books in to school every day so that any teacher, teaching assistant or volunteer can listen to your child read whenever possible.



Read Write Inc Sound Mat

How Can You Help Your Child?

Try to listen to your child read regularly, ten minutes a day is much better than longer sessions once a week. It often helps if a regular time is set aside so that it becomes part of a routine.

Always sign and date your child's reading diary every time you listen to them.

Find a quiet place to share books where you can be comfortable and encourage your child to have a go by blending to help read any unfamiliar words. This means children are saying the sounds within the word and then blending them together.



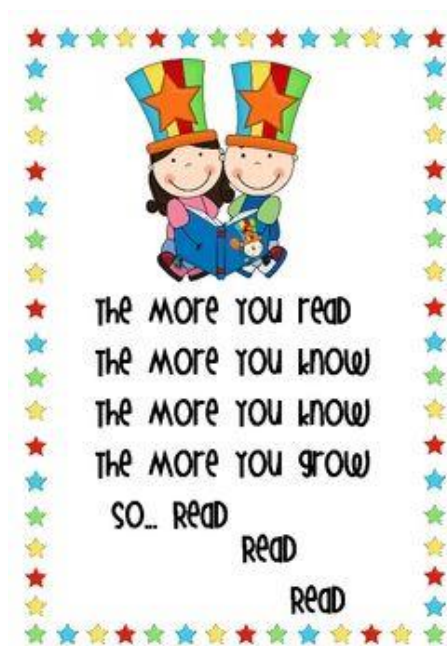
Talk about the meanings of words read to help to develop your child's understanding and use of language. If children are being introduced to a new word can you relate this to something they already have knowledge of e.g. yacht could be linked to a boat.

Share as many books as possible with your child, it is also fabulous if they can see you reading too. Encourage your child to read a range of text such as newspapers, comics, poetry, non-fiction, etc.

Playing word games or board games will also help develop a child's understanding of phonics and reading.

At all times it is important to build up your child's confidence by praising their efforts and remaining positive. If your child is not in the mood to read at that time, just leave the book and come back to it later.

When reading with your child talk and ask questions about the text or book, there are some examples of these on the next page.



Questions to Ask While Reading

Fiction:

Where/when does the story take place?

Who was the character that...?

What is happening at this point/in this part of the story?

Find one/two things that the main character did in this part of the story.

Which bit tells you about...?

Can you retell the story?

Tell me about what sort of character/person...was from the things they did/ said in the book.

Which is the most interesting/exciting/funniest/scariest/your favourite part of the story? Why?

In this part of the story, what do you think the character feels about...? How can you tell?

What do you think would have happened if...?

What do you think is going to happen next? Why do you think this?

Which part of this book did you like best/least? Why?

How has the author used words/phrases to make this character funny/sad/ adventurous/clever/frightening/ excited/disappointed/ etc?

Why is ... a good title for this story/book/chapter/play?

Did you enjoy reading the story/play/poem or not? Why?

Do you know any more stories like this? Tell me why they are alike.

Do you know another story with similar characters in? Tell me how they are similar.

What do you think this story is trying to tell us?

Non Fiction:

Tell me two things you found out that you didn't know before.

What does this part of the text tell us about?

How does (a diagram/picture/caption) help you to understand the Information on this/these pages?

Which part of the text tells us about ...?

Why are some words in bold?

How does this text layout help the reader?



There are some excellent online resources to help you support your child's learning. We have listed a few websites below:

- ❖ <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/reading-tips/>
- ❖ <https://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/>
- ❖ <http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>
- ❖ <http://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/5-7-years/letters-and-sounds>
- ❖ <http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>
- ❖ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/alphablocks>

If you need any further information please don't hesitate to speak to a member of school staff.

The Parts of a Parent Reader

