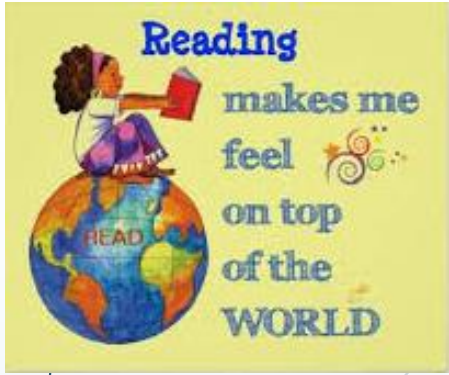


# The Importance of Reading



Reading is a skill we continue to develop throughout our lives, but starting this process as early as possible has significant benefits for our continued success as readers. This is why, as parents and carers, you play a **vital role** in supporting your child in becoming a **fluent reader** who is confidently able to apply their reading skills across all areas of their lives.

The teaching of reading and reading comprehension within the classroom is only part of a child's learning, and the value that is given to reading at home is equally important. Research suggests that children who read regularly outside of school perform significantly better in school and so your support at home is essential in ensuring that your child makes the progress they are capable of.

## How can you help at home?

You can help your child to achieve their full potential by listening to them read daily (for about 15 minutes), reading regular bedtime stories and by encouraging them to enjoy reading and sharing books together. Reading widely through all of these approaches will help develop your child's vocabulary, which in turn will make them more confident when reading more challenging books.

To help us track how much reading your child is doing at home, it is important that you sign their reading record every time you have listened to them read, along with a brief comment. (At the upper end of Key Stage 2 when children are more likely to be reading with confidence and fluency, they should be keeping their own daily records, which should be signed by parents/carers at least once a week.)



# Reading for Pleasure

Giving your child a choice over what they read is an important factor in boosting their enthusiasm for reading and children are more likely to be interested in books they have selected for themselves. Use our school **Book Hives** (located at KS1 and KS2 classrooms) to choose books together that can be shared during story time and bedtime at home. Your local library will also have a vast collection of books that children can regularly and freely choose from. [See our visual guide to effective story telling.](#)

Research shows that 'Poor vocabulary is the primary cause of academic failure.' [Becker 1977]. Aside from the direct teaching of vocabulary, which we undertake at school, reading is the most valuable way in which we can develop children's spoken and written vocabulary. This vital vocabulary development starts at an early age, in the years before children even begin primary school.

The following statistics demonstrate how important reading is to children's early development:

- By the age of two, children learn a new word every two hours. This means that by the time they start school, they should be familiar with over 10,000 words.
- Children who do well in primary school have over 7,000 root words, whereas those who are unable to meet age-related expectations have only about 3,000 root words. There is a difference in reading performance equivalent to just over a year's schooling between young people who never read for enjoyment and those who read for up to 30 minutes per day.
- A child with weak language skills at age five is much less likely to be a strong reader at the age of 11 than a five year old with strong language skills.
- Children who often read books at age 10 and more than once a week at age 16 gain higher results in maths, vocabulary and spelling tests at age 16 than those who read less regularly