



Ladybrook Primary School

Supporting your child with reading



Ways you can support your children at home: reading together



Teach lots of nursery rhymes – each one tells a different story. Recite them alongside printed versions.

Enjoy and share books together – buy or borrow books that will fire their imagination and interest. Read and reread those they love best.

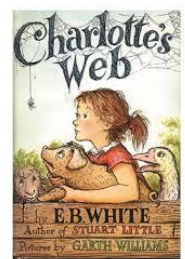
Make time to read with your child throughout their time in school – PLEASE continue reading to your child, even when they are reading independently. This is very important – your child needs to practise their reading skills every day, and needs the support of an interested adult. Grandparents, older brothers or sisters can help, too. Hearing you read to them at bedtime and associating reading with pleasure will give them enormous benefits throughout their education and beyond. Once your child starts school, ten minutes each day spent together enjoying a short story from a good reading book is a fantastic investment in their skills.



Let them see you reading – grown-ups can share their magazines about their favourite sport or hobby. Demonstrating your own enthusiasm for books is possibly the best start you can give your child when learning to read.

Read with your child – ask your child to attempt unknown words, using their phonic skills and knowledge. Make sure they **blend** all through the word but only if it is possible eg 'sh – i – p' can be blended, 'thought' can not.

Predicting Talk about the cover and read the title before rushing your child into the text, asking questions, such as: what do you think it will be about; what sort of book is it; have you read one like this before?



Talk about the meaning of the book, too – take time to talk about what is happening in the book, or things that they found really interesting in an information book. Discuss the characters and important events. Ask them their

views. Talk about the pictures- what clues do they give about the text. Provide toys, puppets and dressingup clothes that will help them to act out stories.

Explain the meaning of words (vocabulary) that your child can read but may not understand, for example, flapped, roared. Ask questions as you read the book together- Why do you think this character is doing this? What might happen next? Example questions are available for you to download from each year group page.

Listen to story tapes.

Teach your child some action rhymes – ‘Heads, shoulders, knees and toes’, ‘Here we go round the mulberry bush’, ‘We all clap hands together’. Use tapes and CD-ROMs of nursery rhymes to sing along to, then look at printed versions.

Read simple rhyming books together – leave out a rhyming word now and then, and see if your child can work out the missing word. If not, you say it.

Borrow or buy the best books you can to share with your child. Libraries and bookshops can advise you of the most popular books. Key stage two classes have a list of suggested titles – download it from the year group page.

What to do if your child is reluctant to read or write at home

Relax! Keep reading time relaxed, comfortable and pleasurable, in a quiet corner, with the television turned off.

Make sure your child sees you reading.

Read **to** your child. Show you like the book. Bring stories to life by using loud/soft/scary voices – let yourself go!

Spread books around your house for your child to dip into.

Let your child choose what **they** would like to read – books, comics, catalogues.

Read favourite books over and over again. Enjoy!

Strategies we use to read:

Phonics:

This is our alphabetic system and how it works - the letters and the sounds they represent. Understanding this helps children build up words they don't know.

Flashcards are available to buy from the office which match the ones we use in school.

Look and say:

This method teaches children a sight vocabulary of complete words through repetition. Many important words have to be taught by repetition because they cannot be sounded out using phonics.

Key words:

The words most frequently used in the English language. Did you know that only one hundred of these words make up half the total number of words found in children's reading.... It makes sense to learn them! These words are usually taught as look and say sight vocabulary.

Mixed methods:

A combination of phonics, key words and look and say methods. This combination helps to ensure that children develop many different strategies to help them to learn to read. Helping your child learn to read is not just about skills, it's also about interest, understanding and boosting confidence. The different schemes offer a full range of reading material to give lots of support to children who are just starting to connect the words they hear with writing on a page while also providing enough challenges to keep children interested as they make progress.

Finally, keep in contact with school through the diary. Let us know if your child is experiencing difficulties and also let us share celebrations of success. We are here to help and support if needed. Keeping a record of your reading at home in the diary informs us about progress at home and we will use the diary to inform you of school progress and next steps.