



Hello and Happy New School Year! Let's hope it's a happy and safe one for all of us. Here is an update on how reading is taught in Reception at Great Crosby.

Supporting your child with reading

Although your child will be taught to read at school, you can have a huge impact on their reading journey by continuing their practice at home.

There are two types of reading book that your child will bring home:

- A reading practice book. These books will be at the correct phonic stage for your child. Your child should be able to read them fluently and independently by the end of the week.
- A class library book. Your child will not be able to read this on their own. This book is for you both to read and enjoy together.

Reading practice book

This book has been carefully matched to your child's current reading level. At first, these books may be wordless. You should support your child in looking closely at the pictures and then use the pictures to tell a story. This is an essential part of the reading process. Once books with words have been introduced, if your child is reading it with little help, please don't worry that it's too easy – your child needs to develop fluency and confidence in reading.

Listen to your child read the book. Remember to give them lots of praise – celebrate their success! If they can't read a word, read it to them. After they have finished, talk about the book together.

Reading practice books will be collected in on a Monday and a new book will be sent home on Tuesday. Please ensure your child's reading book is in their book bag every day so reading practice can take place in school.

Class library book

In order to encourage your child to become a lifelong reader, it is important that they learn to read for pleasure. The class library book is a book they have chosen for you to enjoy together.

Please remember that you shouldn't expect your child to read this alone. Read it to or with them. Discuss the pictures, enjoy the story, predict what might happen next, use different voices for the characters, explore the facts in a non-fiction book. The main thing is that you have fun!

Home school reading diary. Your child will have a reading diary in their book wallet. This is so that we can keep track of what your child is reading, and how they are reading, at home. Please write a comment in the reading diary when your child has read. Your child is also very welcome to write a comment as well, or you could write it for them. Your child's class teacher will read what you've written and will occasionally tick or comment. All books, and the reading diary, should come in and out of school every day. **IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT ALL BOOKS AND READING DIARIES COME IN AND OUT OF SCHOOL, IN YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL BAG/ BOOK WALLET, AS AN ADULT WILL BE READING THE BOOK WITH THEM IN SCHOOL DURING THE WEEK.**

How to read a story to your child -If you can find the time beforehand, read the read-aloud book to yourself first, so you can think about how you're going to read it to your child. On the first reading:

- Make reading aloud feel like a treat. Make it a special, quiet time and cuddle up so you can both see the book. Set a routine for when to read.
- Show curiosity about what you're going to read: 'This book looks interesting. It's about an angry child. I wonder how angry he gets...'
- Read through the whole story the first time without stopping too much. Use different voices and intonation. Let the story weave its own magic.
- Read with enjoyment. If you're not enjoying it, your child won't either. Read favourite stories over and over again.
- Read your own book, magazine, newspaper etc in front of your child. This shows that you get pleasure from reading. Talk about what you've been reading, to your child.

On later readings:

- Let your child pause, think about and comment on the pictures.
- If you think your child did not understand something, try to explain: 'Oh! I think what's happening here is that...'
- Chat about the story and pictures: 'I wonder why she did that?'; 'Oh no, I hope she's not going to...'; 'I wouldn't have done that, would you?'
- Link the stories to your own family experiences: 'This reminds me of when ...'
- Link stories to others that your child knows: 'Ah! Do you remember the dragon in? Do you remember what happened to him?'
- Encourage your child to join in with the bits they know.

Other tips.

- Share a variety of stories with your child as often as possible and show your child that you enjoy the stories and rhymes too.
- Teach your child nursery rhymes and songs and have fun making up alternative versions.
- Let your child handle all kinds of books and show them how to hold a book and turn the pages. Encourage your child to point to each word and track from left to right.
- Look for print in the environment eg on signs, maps, shops, packets etc.
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