



READING AT HOME

At Sandhills School, we want to encourage a love of reading and to grow children who are confident and enthusiastic readers.

“Young people who read outside of class daily are 13 times more likely to read above the expected level for their age.”
National Literacy Trust, 2012

Parents have a huge role to play in their child’s development as a reader, and we want to help you in this important job. Here are some ideas for making reading at home something you both enjoy:

Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1

- Try and find the time to hear your child read regularly – every day if possible. Find a time that works for you. Some children are very tired when they first come home from school, and you may find that after tea, before bed or even first thing in the morning works better for you. Ten minutes is perfect – more if they are keen to continue.
- Pictures are important! Talk through the pictures before you or your child reads the text so that they have the words that are likely to appear on the tips of their tongues.
- Encourage your child with lots of praise. If they struggle, help them to use strategies they have learnt. Some words can be broken up into sounds and blended back together eg scream – s/ c/ r/ ea/ m. Some words appear regularly in books and you cannot sound them out. They just have to be learnt, eg the, what, was. If your child struggles with a word, then read it for them or sound it out for them so that you

don't lose the flow of the text. Focus on the positives and try to avoid reading becoming a chore.

- Talk together about what is happening in the book and make links with things you have done or other books you have read. For example, 'I remember when we went to the park. We had lots of fun...' or 'Do you remember the book we read last week? It had a fierce dragon in it, just like this one!'
- Encourage all sorts of reading – fiction, non-fiction, websites, comic, posters... as well as school books. Visit the local library for ideas! Sometimes children want to re-read books they know well, and this is good too.
- Remember that bedtime stories are really important for developing a love of books, as well as improving vocabulary and comprehension. Choose a book that is a little bit beyond what your child can read independently and read it to your child. This could become a special, cosy time together that you both look forward to.
- If possible, let your child see you reading and learn that adults enjoy books too.

Key Stage 2

- As your child grows older they will want to read to themselves more often, but that doesn't mean they should stop reading to you completely.
- Set an expectation that they will read every night and record the pages they have read in their reading diary. This is useful for teachers to keep track of what they are reading.
- You could ask them to choose a favourite bit from the book they are reading to share with you and discuss why they liked it.
- Encourage them to use lots of expression in their reading aloud.
- Keep up conversation about what they are reading. Talk about books they didn't enjoy as well as those they did, and find out what kind of books appeal to your child. Children tend to have favourite authors or kinds of story at this age, but do encourage them to read widely and explore all sorts of genres.
- Children at this age are often influenced by what their friends read, so perhaps you could swap books with friends.
- Don't abandon the bedtime story! This is still just as important.

Oxford Owl is an excellent website which has useful tips for reading with your child at different ages:

www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading-site/top-tips-for-reading

You can also read 250 free ebooks on this site, on laptop or tablet.

If you would like any further help with reading at home, please contact your child's class teacher.

Happy reading!