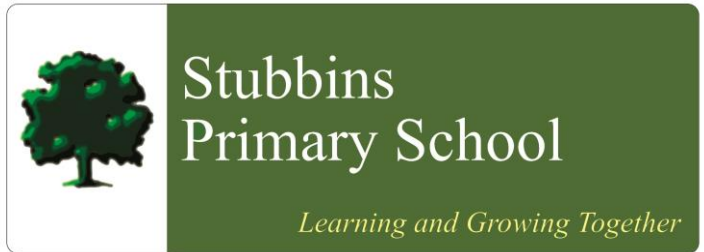


A Parents' Guide to Reading



Why is reading so important?

Reading is a vital tool for lifelong learning. Research shows that children who enjoy reading achieve better at school. Reading not only helps us to widen our knowledge and experiences but allows us to increase our confidence in many aspects of our lives.

Why do I need to help my child with their reading?

Helping children to make progress in reading is most successful when it is done in partnership between home and school. Any support you can give will improve your child's progress.

How can I help my child with reading?

Read a bedtime story every day.

Allow your child to choose the book they want, it is quite normal for children to repeatedly choose a favourite!

Don't be shy, do the voices!

Make stories fun and exciting; laugh, smile, look scared, look sad, sound excited, etc.

Run your finger under the words as you read.

Ask a question or two, for example "What do you think will happen next?", "Who do you think will solve the problem?"

Stop and talk about some of the pictures and characters.

Even when your child becomes an independent reader, sharing bedtime stories will enable your child to enjoy literature. Sharing stories will also extend their vocabulary, improve their comprehension and it is also an enjoyable experience for both parents and children alike. Often these shared stories are memories that children carry with them for life.

Join the library and widen their choice of books.

Let your child see you reading and talk about what texts you enjoy.

Spend ten minutes a day reading with your child, this will include their reading book, but not exclusively.

Read signs, labels and captions found in everyday life.

How do I help my child read their 'reading book'?

Books without words:

Find a quiet place away from other interruptions,

Look at the front cover and talk about what they think the story is about,

Look at each picture carefully and talk about what is happening,

Talk about the characters and where the story is set,

Give your child lots of praise and encouragement.

Talking about stories is very important and helps develop a child's reading skills. Children use pictures to help them read. Books without words help children think about stories and what happens on each page. These books encourage children to use the pictures to work out what is happening. In the future, these skills will help them read the words on the page and more importantly understand their meaning.

Books with words and sentences:

When starting to read, children should put their finger underneath each word as they read.

If they get stuck on a word:

- Ask them to look at the first letter of the word,
- Encourage sounding out each phoneme to build the word and blend the sounds together,
- Use the clues in the picture,
- Use the context of the sentences to work it out, i.e. miss the word out and read to the end of the sentence, what word would make sense?
- Don't spend too long on a difficult word, it is OK for you to give the word sometimes. You can go back later to reread the tricky bit. Try to keep the story flowing so you can both enjoy reading together. It is more important for your child to know what the book is about, rather than read every word correctly.

Try to be positive and praise your child for their effort and achievement, even if they do not read the whole book fluently!

After reading:

Talk about similar experiences your child might have had. "Do you remember when you ..." "It's just like when you..."

Talk about the story afterwards. "Which bit did you like?" "Wasn't it funny when ..."

At the front and back of each reading book there is a parent's guide. Please refer to these pages prior to starting the book as they will give you tips on how to help your child read and engage with the text.

How do I use the reading diary?

Each time your child reads a few pages of the book, make a note in the diary.

If you have any notes or queries to pass on to the teacher you can do this in the reading diary,

Your child's Key Person will look in the diary when they are changing the books and/or listening to your child read.

When the reading book is finished please make a clear note in the diary.

Your child will be given two Bug Club/Phonics Bug reading books a week. They will receive the paper copies inside their reading diary and in addition these, the books will be available as e-reading books on line. You can choose which format suits your child the best. A brilliant way of using the online facility would be to revisit and enjoy the text for a second time. Second time around your child will feel more confident and will be able to focus more on comprehension. Children can answer questions about the text and will be given reward e-coins each time they read a new book. They can collect the coins and buy things to enhance their virtual world. The e-reading books

can be accessed by logging in to www.activelearn.co.uk using your child's personal username and password (sent out separately). If you experience difficulty when logging on with your tablet, try using Puffin browser as your search engine. Reception's reading books will be changed on **Thursdays**. Please try to thoroughly complete the two books within the week.

Once children have learned the basic skills of reading what are the key features teachers look for?

Fluency: can the child read at a comfortable pace and are they starting to use an expressive voice?

Accuracy: can the child decode unfamiliar words?

Understanding: can the child follow the content of what they are reading and answer questions about the text?

Enjoyment and confidence: does the child engage with the text and want to know how the story progresses? Do they attempt new words with little encouragement? Does the child feel happy to 'have a go'?

What reading is done in school?

Children engage in all sorts of teacher led and independent reading activities and games each day at school. During the week children will be asked to read in a group during Guided Reading and one to one with an adult. We will note this in your child's reading diary.

If you have any questions related to reading, or experience any difficulties, please let us know. Each child is different and there are many strategies to help your child progress.

Our reading scheme is progressive and reflects the teaching and learning in each phonic stage. The books are colour banded. The colour bands children in reception will work through are:

Lilac (Phase 1), Pink (Phase 2), Red (Phase 3), Yellow (Phase 3/4), Blue (Phase 3/4).

Please see the classroom display for example texts at each colour band.