



Hazeldown Primary School

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Helping Children Read



"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body."

Joseph Addison - a 17th Century poet and essayist and co-founder of The Spectator magazine.

We don't need a list of rights and wrongs, tables of dos and don'ts: we need books, time and silence. *Thou shalt not* is soon forgotten, but *Once Upon a Time* lasts forever - Phillip Pullman

Reading in the Foundation Stage

At Hazeldown, we believe books and stories hold a world full of magic and imagination. We believe every child has a right to be part of this world and, if we work together, giving your children the tools and knowledge required, we will unlock their ability to become a reader.

Children will be surrounded by stories from their first day in school. We have a wide range of books throughout the school for children to share and experience.

Early reading is primarily about the child using pictures to make sense of a story. Children need to be able to tell a story in their own words, showing an understanding of the elements of stories, such as main character and sequence of events.

We treat all children as readers, accepting their version of stories, as well as sharing the author and illustrator's words and pictures.

Children need to listen to adults modelling reading. At this early stage, few children will be able to read the words in a book, or attempt to decode others. At school, we will provide them with the basic tools required to do this, but it will not happen overnight!

We will:

- Teach your child phonics, i.e. recognising the letters of the alphabet by the sound they make. This will then help your child to break down small words by sounding them out.
- Teach your child to recognise high frequency words, such as ***the, me, to.***
- Send home regular reading tasks to support the development of word building skills and high frequency word recognition.
- Read with your child regularly. This will be on an individual basis and also through guided reading sessions where we will have chosen a "controlled vocabulary" book for a small group of children to read together.
- Promise to value all attempts your child makes at reading.

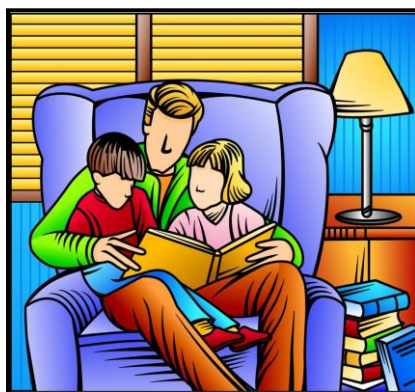
Reading every day with your child is the most important thing you can do to help nurture curiosity and knowledge about the world, strengthen vocabulary and comprehension skills and model the joy of reading. This can also be used as a special 'adult and child' or family time.

There are no short cuts for learning to read. Practice, practice, practice!

We pride ourselves on a long tradition of partnership with parents and realise that a child's full potential will only be recognised with dedicated support from both school and home. Therefore, here are some "top tips" to help your child with reading at home.

You can:

- Read to your child daily.
- Talk to your child about what is happening on each page and ask them what might happen next.
- Let your child follow the pictures as you read.
- Talk about the characters; who they are, what they do, what they are like and why they do what they do.
- Encourage your child to tell the story in their own words and never force them to read the words unless they volunteer to with a word they recognise.
- Encourage your child to look at initial sounds in words when they are ready and use the pictures to make attempts at words.
- Encourage your child to sound out simple consonant, vowel, consonant words like 'cat' or 'pin', once they recognise most of their letter sounds.
- Undertake the regular reading activities as a fun and enjoyable task.
- Praise, praise and praise some more! Learning to read is hard and children should never be made to feel anything other than successful at this crucial stage.
- Above all enjoy sharing books with your child.



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