

The Power of Reading

- Creating a love of reading in children is one of the most powerful ways of improving academic standards in school.
- A reading family is a learning and thinking family.
- There can be few better ways to improve pupils' chances in school, or beyond in the wider world than to enable them to become truly independent readers.
- Reading is all about acquiring meaning; i.e. for enjoyment, information and understanding.
- It is not a performance.
- It is not a test - every time you finish a book, do you always choose a harder one next time?

Reading at Home – Enjoy!

- Reading is taught and practised in school. Home is also a great place to practise - but in a more informal and relaxed atmosphere.
- Make reading visible; have books available in your home.
- Share books every day.
- Boys need to see that reading is something men do.
- Talk about books.
- Sit and listen - don't do chores around the reader! Turn the TV off.
- Respect choices - your child is much more likely to become a better reader if they are interested in what they are reading. Comics and special interest magazines are allowed!

Read to your children

- Introduce your children to different types of books: classic fiction, chapter books, short stories, joke books, poetry, non-fiction.
- Read them the book that was your favourite when you were a child.
- Read slowly with expression. Try to use different and funny voices for characters.
- Follow the words and read the story using the pictures to help understanding.
- Talk about what is happening and what might happen next
- Leave stories on a cliff hanger.
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What do we do when we read?

Blend the letter sounds together to read the words.

Make connections with what we already know. Bringing our existing knowledge, understanding and personal responses to a new text.

Consider whether we like or dislike the text or whether we think it is a good read.

Understand the text. Know what the individual words and the whole text means.

Make a personal response. How does text make you feel or remind you of?

Engage with the text. 'See' the pictures the words make; feel the emotions the text evokes.

