

The Oaktree School's Reading Booklet



At The Oaktree School we have a culture of working with parents and the local community to ensure that our children receive the highest standard of education and make excellent progress. We are striving to provide a holistic education in which children are prepared for their roles as citizens and life long learners.

Further tips for sharing books can be found at the back of your child's reading record.

Reading skills your child needs to develop:

- Locating print on the page.
- Locate where to start reading: left to right/ top to bottom/ front to back.
- Notice spaces between words, practice one to one matching (pointing to each word as they try to read it).
- Identify and respond to speech bubbles, punctuation etc.
- Identify letters and use knowledge of phonics to sound out words.
- Identify some words without having to work them out.
- Identify some of the sounds within a word. E.g., know first and last sound.
- Understand the terminology of 'word', 'sentence' and 'letter'.



How can you help your child at home?

Please encourage your child to:

- Read as widely as possible and discuss the content of the book
- Ask questions about the content, main characters/ setting of the story.
- Discuss how the character is feeling and how they know this.
- Make predictions about what is going to happen.
- Use correct book terminology e.g. author, illustrator, publisher, title, fiction, non-fiction.
- Work out unfamiliar words by sounding them out/ using clues from other words in the sentence to make a sensible guess/ looking at the picture for clues.
- Pay attention to punctuation and read for meaning.
- Stop and correct them if the reading does not make sense.

Questions to ask your child:

- What do you think this book is going to be about?
- Who are the main characters?
- What do you think will happen next?
- Why did they do that?
- Do you like this book? Why?
- What was the best/ funniest/ saddest part of the story?
- What does that picture tell you?

Parents and Carers,

At The Oaktree School, we consider reading to be of great importance and the key to all other aspects of learning, as it impacts on everything a child does.

In school, your child may experience a wide range of reading opportunities, which include:

- independent reading
- guided reading (Teacher working with a group to develop particular reading skills)
- shared text work in Literacy lessons
- comprehension
- research (using ICT/ reference books)
- group reading (sharing a text with other children)

Some of these may happen in the Phonics, English or Guided Reading session but equally, the children may have these opportunities through other subjects.

This leaflet is designed to help you help your child at home. If you would like any further help with your child's reading please talk to the teacher.



Guided Reading

Each week the children work with the teacher on a Guided Reading activity. This is a planned lesson giving the teacher opportunity to teach or practice the relevant reading skills for your child's ability. We use this session to teach different reading strategies, hear your child read and ask comprehension questions to ensure their understanding of the text. In school, we use the Book Band system so the books are colour banded with books on a similar level.

Within each band there are books from a wide range of reading schemes and 'real books', so that your child becomes familiar with a range of reading material.

Reception children are heard individually in the Autumn term, before moving on to group reading activities.



Home Readers

Your child will choose a book from their book back every day. Please encourage your child to read this book to you (several times if necessary) until they are familiar with the words and demonstrate a good level of understanding. Always encourage your child to stop if what they have read does not make sense and have another go.

Some home readers have information to help you know what to expect of your child on that level of the book band scheme or a copy of parents/ teachers notes, to show you what questions you can ask your child in order to assess their understanding of the text.

Reading Records

All children in the school are given a Reading Record book. This needs to be brought into school each day with the child's home reader. We ask parents to comment, sign and date when they hear their child read at home. Targets are linked to book bands and can be found on the back of the reading diaries.