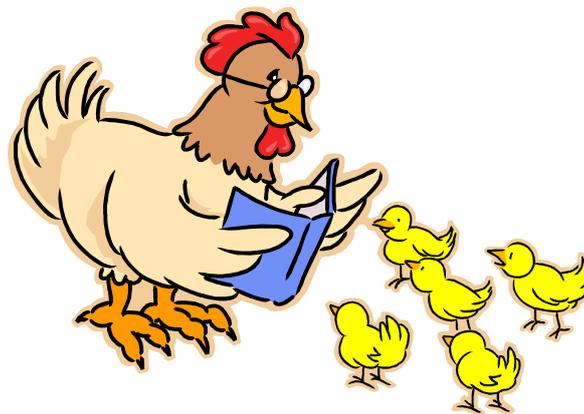


A PARENTS GUIDE TO...



Reading at Queenborough School and Nursery

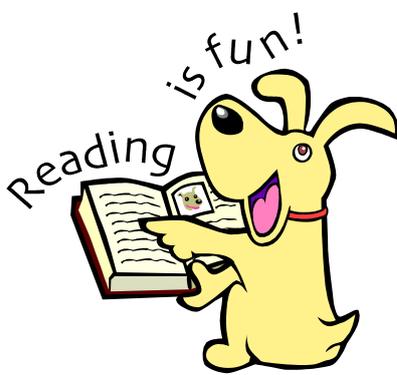


PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO READ THIS DOCUMENT. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS THEN PLEASE PHONE THE SCHOOL OFFICE TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO MEET WITH A MEMBER OF THE SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM.

Reading at Queenborough School and Nursery January 2020

As you are probably aware, Queenborough School and Nursery is strongly committed to promoting reading and instilling a love of books to all our children. Parents and carers are sometimes unsure of how they can help their child get to grips with reading, especially if their child is a reluctant reader.

Parents often ask what they can do to help their child at home with reading. Sometimes they worry that they are doing the wrong thing, so we have put together some tips and advice to give parents guidance.



Reading with your child...

Phonics -

This basically means the sounds of the letters, rather than letter names. We use a method in school where the young children have an action for each letter sound of the alphabet. They then associate the letter sound. The children then progress to building sounds together to make a word for example c-a-t to make cat. We start with simple 3 letter words and gradually build up. Please encourage you child to sound out unknown words when they read their books to you.

High Frequency Words -

Of course not all words can be sounded out, but they are frequent, everyday words that the children need to know. Some examples of this are 'the' and 'said'. Most classes have high frequency words displayed in their classrooms for the children to see everyday. With regular reading the children become familiar with these words quite quickly.

Using Pictures to Help -

The pictures are a very important part of the story, especially for younger children. It is not cheating if the child uses the pictures to help them. Sometimes a book introduces a new word, such as the name of an animal or musical instrument that the child has not seen before. The picture clue will help them to read the sentence without pausing too much to work out the new word. As children become confident they will rely less on the pictures to read, but still enjoy looking at them.

Be positive...

Make sure you praise your child when they read. It's ok to make mistakes when reading. Negative comments will put them off.

Give them time...

Let your child try to work out the word themselves before jumping in too quick to give them the answer. They are probably using a range of reading strategies to work out the word. Sometimes they will read a word incorrectly, get to the end of the sentence and realise their error which they will then self-correct.

Spot words within words...

Help them to spot words within words. Some larger, more complicated words have smaller words hidden within them. Also they can 'chunk' or breakdown longer words to read them in more manageable bits. For example, fan- tas -tic for fantastic.

Read on then go back to work out new words...

Read the sentence through to the end and work out what would make sense, bearing in mind the first sound of the word. For example, 'The dog was dirty after running in the mud.' If the child was stuck on 'dirty' they could read on and work out a logical answer.

Let them read their favourites...

Sometimes children are happy to read their favourite books over and over again. Don't worry too much if they do this. Reading should be a pleasurable experience. Maybe you could ask their teacher to recommend similar titles to move them on.



Encourage reading with expression...

If your child can read using tone and expression it will really bring the story to life and also help with the understanding of what is going on in the book. Giving your child an example of how to do this, by reading to them, will help them.

Visit your local library...

The library is free to join and has more than just books. They have audio books and a vast range of topics of interest for them, such as music, pets and sports stars, etc.

Have books at home...

Have books at home as part of everyday life. Let your child see you reading, even if it's a newspaper or magazine.

Make time to read...

Set aside some time during the day for reading together. It may be at bedtime, but doesn't have to be. Encourage your child to read independently, but still read to them as well.

Let your child read to younger children...

Letting your child read to younger children will give them confidence and it will help their expression if they are reading aloud.

Use reading to get information...

Encourage your child to read for information. Children enjoy looking at the Argos book for example, and other gift guides. The children might be reading up on a new computer game release. Anything that motivates them will give them the incentive to read.



Some Key Points...

Of course the best way to encourage your child to read is to read to and with them as often as possible. This will also help your child develop tone and expression. Look for words and signs when out shopping. It's amazing how quickly they learn to spot words like 'Toys' and 'Sweets'. Most children can recognise the yellow 'McDonalds' sign. All this helps their reading and helps the child recognise the benefits of being able to read.

Above all, reading should be an enjoyable experience for you and your child. Try to avoid reading when your child is too tired. Sometimes your child may not want to read. Don't force them, but read to them instead that time. Maybe let them read a comic or magazine instead. Whatever they enjoy reading about should be encouraged. The children who read regularly at home progress quickly and it helps them in school with all aspects of learning.

Don't read for too long. If the child finds it difficult keep it short and sweet. Ten minutes of good reading is better than a difficult half an hour.

Ask your child questions about what they are reading. Comprehending a book is very important and reading becomes useless if the child doesn't understand what they have read.

Games are also very good. Things like 'scrabble' and 'boggle' are a great way of improving reading and spelling.

These are just a few examples of how you can help your child. If you have any concerns please speak to your child's teacher after school. We hope you have found this note helpful. Good luck with the reading and have fun!

