

Key Stage 2 Reading

At The Observatory School, pupils learn to read with confidence, fluency and understanding, providing them with the skills required to achieve a lifetime of enjoyment through reading. Pupils read in school independently, with peers and as a shared class session. They listen to adults and other pupils read, taking part in paired reading and discussions with their own and other age groups.

During Key Stage 2, some activities take place which promote pre-reading skills. Children become aware of print in their environment and match pictures and words. Language comprehension is developed by talking and reading to the pupils. As they gain phonic knowledge they start the process of decoding.

Pupils are assessed regularly and move onto the next book band when their fluency and comprehension show that they are ready.

This term we are introducing a new reading scheme called **Accelerated Reader**. This is being targeted at the whole school.

Accelerated Reader is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. Your child picks a book at his/her own level and reads it at his/her own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer - passing the quiz is an indication

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that your child has understood what has been read. It gives both children and teachers feedback based on the quiz results which the teacher then uses to help the child set targets and ongoing reading practice.

How you can help your child with reading at home:

Daily reading practise will help develop children's decoding and comprehension skills although it is not expected that they will read a whole book every night. Children may only read 3 or 4 pages of their book but will spend longer discussing their understanding of what they have read in order to progress in developing their comprehension skills.

We would encourage children to read a variety of texts on a regular basis, even taking the opportunities to note and read texts in their environment such as road signs, leaflets, information posters, newspapers etc. Please feel free to share these reading experiences in their home reading record and encourage them to share their opinions about the texts they have read.

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TOP TIPS FOR READING WITH YOUR CHILD

1) CHOOSE A QUIET TIME

Set aside a quiet time with no distractions. 10 to 15 minutes is usually long enough.

2) MAKE READING ENJOYABLE

Make reading an enjoyable experience. Sit with your child. Try not to pressurise if he or she is reluctant. If your child loses interest then do something else.

3) MAINTAIN THE FLOW

If your child mispronounces a word do not interrupt immediately. Allow your child to self-correct using their phonics skills. You can always discuss mispronounced words at the end of your reading time.

4) SUCCESS IS THE KEY

Until your child has built up his or her confidence, it is better to keep to easier books. Struggling with a book with many unknown words is pointless because the flow is lost, the text cannot be understood, and children can easily become reluctant readers.

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5) VISIT THE LIBRARY

Encourage your child to use the public library regularly. Remember our school library is open after school

6) REGULAR PRACTICE

Try to read with your child every day. Little and often is best.

7) COMMUNICATE WITH THE SCHOOL

Your child has a reading record book. Try to communicate regularly with positive comments and any concerns. Your child will then know that you are interested in their progress and that you value reading. We would love to hear the children's opinions of the texts they read and their progress.

8) TALK ABOUT THE BOOKS

There is more to being a good reader than just being able to read the words accurately. Being able to understand what has been read is just as important. Always talk to your child about the book; about the pictures, the characters, how they think the story will end, their favourite part. You will then be able to see how well they have understood and you will help them to develop good comprehension skills.

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9) VARIETY IS IMPORTANT

Remember that children need to experience a variety of reading materials eg. picture books, hardbacks, comics, magazines, poems, recipes, instructions and information books.

