

Seymour Primary School



How to Help Your Child with Reading

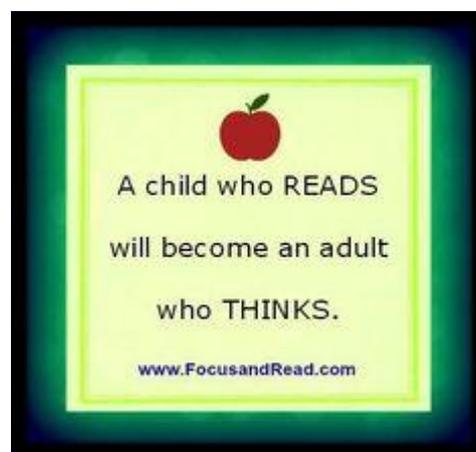
Key Stage 2



How Older Children Develop Their Reading

Once children have developed the basic skills of reading, there can be a risk that their motivation and enthusiasm begins to lessen. This is a vital stage in children's reading development and the point at which parents can offer invaluable support. Taking the time to talk to your children about the books they choose and sharing books with them regularly can make all the difference. Many children love reading comics, magazines, newspapers, information books and poetry. All of these reading activities should be encouraged.

Children in Key Stage 2 will be at very different stages of development, but even for the most fluent readers there is a need for parental support. For fluent readers, this does not have to mean reading out loud.



Accelerated Reader

In Key Stage 2 children are enrolled on the Accelerated Reader program. At the beginning of Year 3 they take an online test. This test tells us the children's reading age and gives them a reading range (ZPD). All the books in our library are in boxes so that all the books of a certain level are grouped together. The reading range tells the children which box to choose their books from.

After they have read a book the children take a fun online quiz that tests how well they have understood it. Children are rewarded for scoring 100% on their quizzes.

At the end of each half term the children take another online test to see if they have made progress. They are then given a new reading range. There are rewards for the most improved readers in each year group.

You can find out which books are in your child's reading range by looking at:

www.arbookfinder.co.uk

For further information about the accelerated reader program please phone the office and ask to speak to Miss Hook (Assistant Headteacher)

Focussed Reading Sessions

Children in Key Stage 2 take part in daily Focused Reading sessions. During these sessions they will work both independently and with an adult to read, discuss and respond to a wide range of different books.

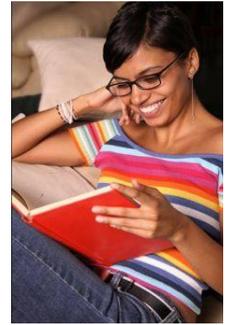


We encourage children to think about which authors write the books that inspire them the most and the styles and types of books that they find the most interesting. Do they prefer adventure, horror, comedy or fantasy stories?

We also explore a wide range of types of text such as; newspapers, recipe books, comics, and graphic novels.

How You Can Help

Model a love of reading with your child – let children see that you value books. Seeing adults enjoying reading from books, newspapers, magazines, recipes or menus will make children want to read themselves



Keep their books safe and encourage children to have a special place where their books can be stored. Make sure they have time and a quiet place to read in, just before bedtime is good as it encourages children to relax and unwind from the day.



Join the library and take part in the free regular activity days that they run. The children may also get the opportunity to meet some of their favourite authors .

Choose a book with your child that you both like the look of. Arrange a time to get together and talk about what you have both read so far. Who has read the most? Who is your favourite character so far? What do you both think about the main events? Share your opinions about the book.



How You Can Help

Have a family word of the week challenge – who in the family can find the most unusual/interesting word in the book they are reading this week. What does it mean? Add it to a family word collection. Challenge each other to use it in conversation.



Read the newspaper together. If you see a good story in the newspaper that is appropriate for your child to read, share it with them and talk about why you thought it was interesting.



Practical activities can be a great opportunity for engaging reluctant readers. You could read a set of instructions on how to build a model together. Or follow a recipe together to make your family a meal. Some children like to understand how things work so may enjoy reading instruction manuals for cars or other machines.

Lots of older children who find reading longer books difficult may enjoy graphic novels or comics. Regular subscriptions that mean a comic is posted through your door every week can create excitement and anticipation.



Talking About Books

Talking about reading is essential for children to develop a deeper understanding of the books they read. Here are some questions you could ask your child while sharing a book.

Fiction Books:

Before Reading:

- What made you choose this book?
- Who is the author and have you read anything by them before?
- What kind of book is it?
- What does the blurb tell you about the book?

During Reading:

- What has happened so far?
- Who are the main characters?
- How would you like the story to end?
- Where is the story set? How was it described?
Which of the characters do you like the most? Why?
- Are there any characters that you think are similar to you?
What makes you think this?
- Why do you think the characters behaved that way?
- What do you think will happen next? Why?

After Reading:

- Was the book as you expected?
- Did you notice anything special about the words/language in this book?
- If you had written the book how would you have made it better?
- Would you recommend this book? Why?

Talking About Books

Non - Fiction Books:

Before Reading:

- What made you choose this book?
- What do you think we will learn from this book?
- Do you think this book is the best choice to find the information we are looking for?
- How could you use the contents/index to help you find what you are looking for?

After Reading:

- How does the layout of the book help us to find information?
- What have you learnt from this book?
- Who do you think would find this book interesting?
- Do you think this book could be better, why?
- Did you find the pictures, diagrams and photographs helpful?
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Poetry:

- What is the poem about?
- What did you like/dislike about the poem?
- How did the poem make you feel?
- What were your favourite words/lines in this poem?
- How was the poem set out? Was it effective?
- Who was the poem written for?

Reading is one of the most valuable and rewarding skills your child will learn. We believe that children who read regularly at home make greater and quicker progress in the development of their reading and comprehension skills. Any time you can spend hearing your child read or discussing books with them will provide valuable support to their learning.

Some useful websites:

www.educationcity.com

www.bbc.co.uk

www.starfall.com

www.literacytrust.org.uk

www.love2read.co.uk

We hope that this leaflet has been useful. For more support or information about helping your child with their reading please contact the school office and ask to speak to:

Miss Hook – Assistant Headteacher