



Reading at Home



At Bridgewater, reading is at the heart of all that we do. Our aim is to encourage a love of books and for all children to leave our school as fluent and avid readers. Reading at home plays a significant role in this and we have therefore created this document to support you in ensuring that reading with your child is easy, purposeful and – most importantly – fun!

What are the benefits of reading with my child?

Reading together and sharing stories is a great way of building special memories; it can become a favourite part of the day for many children and adults. Reading a range of books also helps children to understand the world around them; develop social and emotional skills; build confidence with communication and make further progress with their reading accuracy and fluency.

When should I read with my child?

It is important to make time every day to read with your child. Try to find a time and place where there are minimum distractions and where you can get comfortable so you can focus solely on enjoying a story together.

What should we read together?

Your child's reading book from school is selected carefully to match their current ability whilst providing a suitable challenge in order to support progress. However, books from school should be just one part of your child's reading diet. You could also read:

- Familiar picture books that you both know and love
- New books from the library that are of interest to your child
- A range of fiction and non-fiction books
- Children's magazines or comics
- Picture books – it's fantastic to use pictures to explore stories and aid understanding

Whatever you choose to read on an evening, please do make a comment in your child's reading record so that we know about their wonderful home reading!

Top Tips for Reading with your Child!



- Read books (or pages/chapters for older children) more than once. The first read can focus on de-coding and blending any tricky words; the second read can focus on fluency and the third on gaining a deeper understanding of the text.
- **Actively listen** to your child. If you come across a word that you think your child may not know, stop them and ask them **what it means**. If they are not sure, ask them to read the sentences that come before and after the word to see if they can guess its meaning. Why not ask your child to look the word up in a **dictionary** if they are still unsure? You will be supporting the development of so many skills by encouraging your child to work out the meaning of new vocabulary!
- Before reading with your child, ask them to **recall** what happened when you last read the story together. What can they remember about events leading up to this page/chapter? Can they **summarise** the story so far?
- Try some fun and different reading activities – why not read a page with your child then ask them to **visualise** the scene and draw a picture to match what they have read. If the page is describing a setting or a person, does your child's drawing match? Have they read closely and added relevant details?
- Stop at an appropriate place in the book or chapter and ask your child to **predict** what they think is going to happen next. It doesn't matter if they are right or wrong, but it is important to question your child to gain an understanding of why they think that is going to happen. Have there been any hints in the story so far to suggest that?
- **Praise** your child for the effort they are putting in to their reading – if they are finding a word tricky, praise their resilience.
- Make sure your child sees you reading and enjoying a good book – be a reading role model for your child.

Reading With Your Child

Question to develop understanding

Questions to support reading can be split in to two categories: those that require children to find or **retrieve the answer** from the text and questions that help children to **develop understanding**; these may require your child to read again or think carefully in order to infer the answer.

Retrieval Questions

- When did _____ take place/happen?
- What is the name of _____?
- How many _____?
- Where does the story take place?
- Who are the key characters in the book?

Questions to Help Develop Understanding

1. What do you think will happen next? Why?
2. Why do you think _____ decided to do that?
3. Describe the _____.
4. What do you think (character) thinks about _____?
5. Why was (character) annoyed/upset/happy about _____?
6. What do you most enjoy about this book? Why?
7. Can you think of another story that this reminds you of?
8. Did any part of this chapter/story surprise you?
9. How do we know that _____ is feeling _____?
10. Who would you recommend this book to and why?

