

Support for reading

Reading is an essential part of children's learning and when they are at school, this is a skill that we practise on a daily basis with children.

Oxford Owl are now offering a free service for parents, where you can log on and access free e-books, which children can then read online. We appreciate that it is not the same as having a book for children to hold, but during these times, it would be really beneficial for children to continue practising the skills that they have worked so hard on, so far this year.

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page>

Reading is a skill which takes a lot of time, practise and patience for children to master. All children progress at different speeds and some will be able to read fluently, while others will need to build up every word. Regardless of the stage your child is at, it is still very important for children of this age that they have a regular opportunity to share a book with an adult. I have included some suggestions below that I hope will support you, in supporting your child with their reading.

Hints and tips:

- It is common for children to only concentrate for 5 – 10 minutes maximum when reading. Don't feel pressured to read a book all in one go. Once your child loses interest, put the book down and come back to it, but make it clear you expect them to read at least 2 pages and praise them for their effort.
- Talk about what is happening in the picture **before you start to read each page**. This makes it a more enjoyable and meaningful process for your child. They could also pick out the characters they know and look for their names in the text.
- Children are often heavily reliant on blending words and this can take a lot of effort and concentration for them. Try to make the reading a smoother process by picking out two or three words for them to blend, **before you ask them to read the sentence**.
- Tell them any words you know they will struggle with, before they begin to read the sentence. This is not cheating! It is supporting and encouraging them.
- Encourage them to find 'tricky words' **before they begin to read the sentence**. Eg: "I can see the word 'said' – can you find it too?" A list of these can be found in the front of homework diaries, but they are generally words that are common and children cannot blend them eg: the, was, of, said.
- Tell them that you will read one page and they can read the other.
- For children who are more fluent readers, talk about how the characters are feeling, any words that you think they might not know the meaning of and ask them one or two questions about what they have read to check their understanding of the story. We often think that when children are reading fluently they no longer need to read to anyone, but they still need the opportunity to talk about the story and to check they understand what is happening and why.
- Read a book more than once. Your child may need lots of support the first time they read it, but if they read it again the next day, they will recall some of it from the previous day and that will build their confidence.

I hope that this helps but if you have any further questions or concerns, please remember that you can email our team on the following addresses:

oxcloseyear1@durhamlearning.net

oxcloseyear2@durhamlearning.net

Mrs Phillips