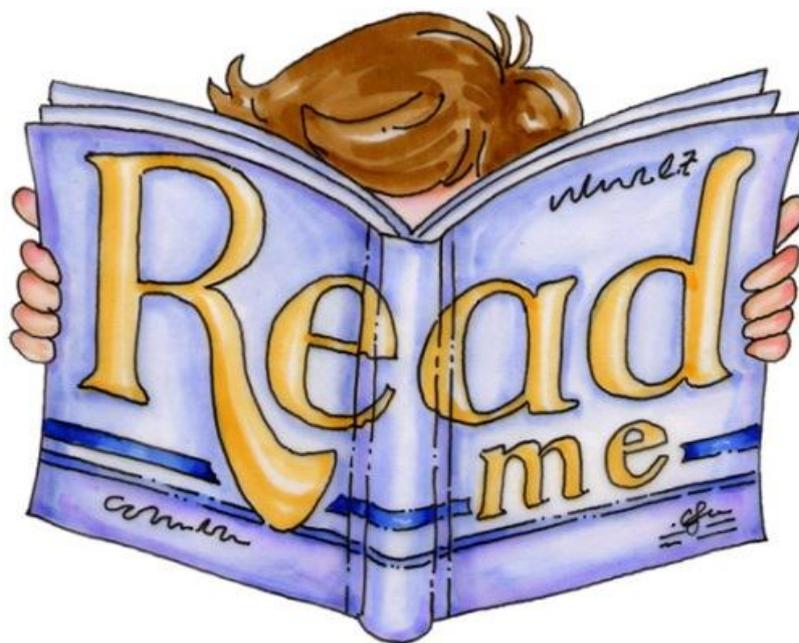




**Golborne  
Community  
Primary**

# **Supporting your child's Reading**



'Enjoy each day as we learn along the way'.

## Developing a Reading Community

At Golborne Community Primary School we aim to develop a reading community where children become confident and enthusiastic readers. For us to achieve this we need to take reading beyond the classroom. We want to create a rich reading environment where reading is encouraged by everyone and everywhere.

Everywhere we go there are things to look at and read. This can be done at anytime; while you are shopping, visiting the dentist or the doctors, travelling in the car or on a bus, visiting places such as a museum. There are lots of fun and interesting ways we can help children to read without them even realising they are learning. In this booklet we will provide lots of ideas that you can use with your children at home.

### **Why is reading so important?**

Reading is a vital tool for learning and for life. Reading not only helps us to widen our knowledge and experiences but also increases our confidence in many aspects of our lives.

Research shows that children who enjoy reading achieve better results at school.

Helping children to make progress in reading is most successful when it is done in partnership between home and school. Any support you can give your child will improve their progress.

We appreciate that parents and other adults are more than willing to offer this support, but may sometimes be unsure how to go about it. Here are some tips and advice which we hope you will find useful.

## How to help

- Find a quiet place free from other interruptions.
- Spend a few minutes discussing the blurb (information about the book) and front cover before you even open the book - What do you think this book is about?
- Help and support your child if they get stuck on any words. Try not to simply tell them the words, encourage them to work it out by:
  - Sounding out the letter sounds
  - Using any picture clues
  - Using the context of the sentence to work out - What would sensibly fit?
  - Re-reading to check for meaning
- Ask your child questions to check their understanding of the text

What was your favourite part?

How did you feel about the main character?

Which words show you that the character is happy?

What might happen next?

Give your child lots of praise and encouragement.

Remember it takes lots of practice.

### **How children learn to read**

Children often learn stories and rhymes off by heart. When reading children rely a lot on memory, they appear to be reading when really they have remembered the pattern of the story. This is not cheating! It shows us that your children are on their way to becoming a reader as they are making the connection between print and a story.

Children will often want to read the same book over and over again. This shows they are enjoying the story and getting pleasure from reading. If this does become too much for you! offer to read their favourite books and one of your favourite's too.

Listening to story tapes or CD's, is also a nice way to share stories and rhymes. These can also be borrowed from libraries.

### **Instant ideas for improving reading at any age.**

- Spend 10 minutes a day reading together. Make it fun – choose books, magazines, brochures, catalogues, menus, recipes, posters, newspapers that you both enjoy.
- Encourage the children to make up their own characters and stories.
- Buy books as presents.
- Make a special place to keep reading books.
- Join the library, they have lots of fun and free events and have free internet access.
- When reading point out unusual words and talk about what they mean.
- Let your child see you reading, talk about what you like and don't like to read.

## Reading Strategies

### Definitions

**Segmenting** - breaking up words into their individual sounds so that we can spell a word

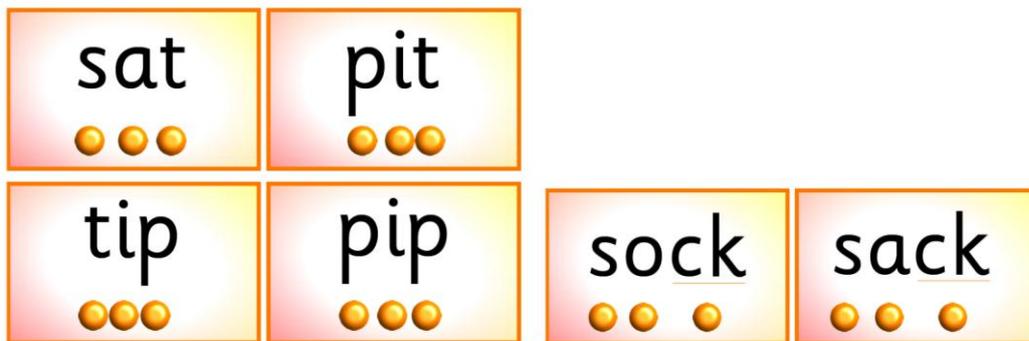
**Blending** - putting individual sounds together so that we can read a word

**A phoneme** - the smallest unit of sound in a word, for example c a t.

There are 43 phonemes in the English language, all letter sounds of the alphabet (c and k, count as one) plus: ch, sh, th, ng, ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, ear, air, ure, er, ar, or, ur, ow, oi

**A grapheme** - the letter or letters that represent the phoneme.

The grapheme can be 1 letter, 2 letters or more! We use sound buttons under the graphemes to make it clear:



Syllables - Chunks of words, for example there are three in Elephant, el-e-phant

### Questions

Questioning children about the book they are reading

/ read, provides us with the opportunity to discover

what they have understood about it. We have

included a range of questions you can ask your child.

Use your judgement about which questions to ask

and keep it enjoyable, not asking too many questions

at one time.

## Fiction Books

Where does the story take place?

When did the story take place?

What did he / she / it look like?

Who was he / she / it?

Where did he / she / it live?

Would you like to have a friend like this, Why / Why not?

How did you feel during different parts of the story, what made you feel like this?

Through whose eyes was the story told?

What part of the story did you like / dislike the most, why?

Have you read any other stories which were similar?

Do you know any other authors who deal with the same issues as this?

What do you think these words mean?

Do you think this book was as good as...?

What part of the book was the saddest, funniest, most interesting?

Did the pictures help you to understand more about the story?

What questions would you like to ask the author?

Do you think all children would like this book?

## Non-fiction Books

What have you learnt from this book?

Who do you think would find this book the most interesting?

How would you use the index page to find something out?

(Look at the contents page) What page would you find out about ...?

Do you think this book could be better, why?

Did you find the diagrams, photographs helpful?

### **Useful web sites**

We hope that you have found this booklet useful. As always please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like further guidance.