



**Hevingham & Marsham**  
Primary School Partnership

# Reading Guide for Parents



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## **Our Intent**

At Hevingham and Marsham Primary Schools we believe in delivering a strong English curriculum which inspires and engages children, allowing them to develop into confident, successful learners and give them the communication skills required to be responsible citizens who participate and flourish fully in all aspects of life. We want all our pupils to develop a love of reading and equip them with a strong command of the skills required to communicate effectively both orally and in writing. The ability to communicate well leads to self confidence and a healthy self-esteem.

Reading plays a key part in this vision and we aim for all our children to be able to read easily, fluently and with good understanding. We want pupils develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information. We promote reading across the school community and curriculum, with pupils engaging with and exploring a wide range of quality books and texts of all types.

To find out more about how the reading curriculum is implemented within our school, please visit the English curriculum section of our school website.



## Your Child's Reading Books

Each child will have two schools books - one reading book and one free choice book.

As the children are developing their reading skills, their reading books are selected carefully by the phonics sounds they have been working on. This helps to embed and develop the skills they learn in phonics sessions to wider reading. Children receive phonics teaching daily following the Department of Education validated scheme, Supersonic Phonics Friends, and parents receive newsletters to inform them of the current learning.

In KS2, once children are secure in their phonics, they will have a reading book from the Accelerated Reader system which enables them to choose appropriate level books to read. Children each have a ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development) range which helps them to choose books that are at the right level. This provides a range so that children can have success as well as more of a challenge with the books they choose.

For further information about Accelerated Reader, please see our separate leaflet and information in the English Curriculum section of

our school website.

In addition to their reading book, each child can take out a book of their choice from our school library. This book may have words that your child can't read yet but it is fine for you to read with them and talk about together. Reading to your child is also extremely valuable and there are some top tips for this later in this leaflet.

Within school, pupils will read and have read to them a range of different texts as part of guided reading, story time sessions and the wider curriculum. You can find out more about this in the implementation part of the English Curriculum section of our school website.

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## **Importance of Reading at Home**

**Research shows that reading is the single most important thing you can do to help your child's education.**

Reading is vital to children's academic success, but it is also a life skill that underpins most of what we do. Children need to be able to read in order to access all the other areas of the curriculum, but also to learn day to day life skills they will need in the future. For example: reading recipes and shopping lists, reading signs, getting and sustaining jobs, receiving and responding to emails and other forms of written communication.

Here are some more examples of what research has shown reading to be great for:

- **Academic success**

Success in school starts with reading. When children become good readers early on, they are likely to become better learners

throughout school and beyond.

- **Mastery of language**

Language in books is very rich and therefore books help children more words and grow their vocabulary. Vocabulary development has been widely proven to be a significant factor in future success.

- **Better communication skills**

Books help children express themselves and empathise with others enabling them to be confident, healthy individuals.

- **Enhances concentration and self-discipline**

Children who read regularly often are more self-disciplined, have greater attention span and a better working memory.

**Finally, and most importantly, reading is fun!**

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### **Tips for making reading at home enjoyable**

For reading at home to be a fun and enjoyable experience, rather than a stressful one, reading needs to be approached as something normal, natural and a chance for quality time within the household.

Here are some tips for achieving a positive experience for reading at home:

- **Set aside a regular time for reading**

Choose a time when you can have 10 minutes of quiet and uninterrupted time to spend together. Choosing a time that is naturally free of distractions, such as bedtime or before or after bath/shower time is often good. Make this a time for your child to look forward to, hot chocolate, blankets, your undivided attention. Try not to choose times where something is being interrupted for

the purpose of reading, such as playing with their friends. Remember reading is meant to be fun, not a chore or a disciplinary tool.

- **Take turns reading**

If you have a reluctant reader or a child that struggles with their reading, take turns and model the reading. For example, you read one page, they read the next. Putting on voices for characters often makes this more fun!

- **Encourage your child to get creative**

Use the book you are reading for other areas of play. They can draw characters, make masks for characters, role play or baking or making a theme from the book.

- **Think outside the book**

As a school, we send home an appropriate book for your child's level of learning. However, this does not mean that they cannot read anything else. In addition to books, they can read: magazines, comics, TV guides, shopping lists, adverts – reading is reading and is always beneficial!

- **Read yourself**

If you read yourself, your child is more likely to be keen to read too. This could be anything from books and emails to recipes, newspapers and magazines.

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- **Communicate**

Your child will have a Reading Record from school. Try to write a positive comment in when they read to you so they can see you are interested in their progress and value reading. (see suggested comments section for ideas). This **does not** have to be only their school book, it can be anything they have read to you.

- **A wide range of books available**

Let your child have choice, libraries or books swaps are a good way to achieve variety.

Further tips for encouraging reading can be found on the Department for Education website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/10-top-tips-to-encourage-children-to-read/10-top-tips-to-encourage-children-to-read>

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**Reading Aloud to Children at Home** (based on DfE advice in The Reading Framework, published 2022)

Children of all ages really do love books being read to them. It significantly supports their development and allows them to access texts and vocabulary that they cannot yet read themselves.

If you can find the time beforehand, read the read-aloud book to yourself first, so you can think about how you're going to read it to your



child.

On the first reading:

- Make reading aloud feel like a treat. Make it a special quiet time and cuddle up so you can both see the book.
- Show curiosity about what you're going to read: 'This book looks interesting. It's about an angry child. I wonder how angry he gets...'
- Read through the whole story the first time without stopping too much. Let the story weave its own magic.
- Read with enjoyment. If you're not enjoying it, your child won't. Read favourite stories over and over again.

On later readings:

- Let your child pause, think about and comment on the pictures.
- If you think your child did not understand something, try to explain: 'Oh! I think what's happening here is that...'
- Chat about the story and pictures: 'I wonder why she did that?'; 'Oh no, I hope she's not going to...'; 'I wouldn't have done that, would you?'
- Link the stories to your own family experiences: 'This reminds me of when ...'
- Link stories to others that your child knows: 'Ah! Do you remember the dragon in ....? Do you remember what happened to him?'
- Encourage your child to join in with the bits they know.
- Avoid asking questions to test what your child remembers.
- Avoid telling children that reading stories is good for them.

### **Discussing Books Together**

Discussing books, whether read by the child or read to them, makes reading more enjoyable as well as supporting understanding and development. It allows your child your child to engage further with the text and gives an opportunity to share their thoughts and feelings about

a book.

**Before your child reads a book, you could discuss:**

What do you think the book is going to be about?

Does this book remind you of anything else you've already read or seen? What kind of characters do you think will be in the book?

What do you think is going to happen?

**While your child is reading a book, try talking**

**about:** Will you catch me up on the story? What's happened so far? What do you think will happen next?

What is the character like? How do they feel? How do you know? If you were that character, what would you have done differently in that situation?

Where is the book set?

If the main character in that story lived next door, would you be friends? What does the place look like in your head as you read?

Would you want to visit there?

Did you learn any new words or facts so far?

**After your child has finished a book, you might**

**discuss:** What was your favourite part of the book? Why?

Who was your favourite character? Why?

What was the most interesting thing you learned from the book? Why do you think the author wrote this book?

Would you have ended the book differently? Did it end the way you thought it would?

Did the problem of the book's plot get solved?

If you could change one thing in the book, what would it be?

**Comment Bank for Reading Records**

Using and writing in your child's reading record shows your child you are interested in their reading development and want to share this with

school. **We would like you to write in their reading record at least three times a week.** It doesn't necessarily need to be the school reading book, it could be their library book, books or magazines they have read at home too. Here at Hevingham and Marsham Primary School, we are very aware that you are all busy people and we want to make the process of recording your child's reading as easy as possible.

As teachers, we are happy just to hear you have read with your child and if they enjoyed it, so we have created an easy bank of comments for you to pick and choose from. Remember, a simple 'Well Done!' is fine too!

- Read familiar words independently.
- Able to predict what happens next in the text.
- Showed good understanding of the text.
- Read with good expression.
- Worked out new words independently.
- Worked out new words by sounding them out.
- Discussed the story and characters well.
- Enjoyed reading this book a lot.
- Self-corrected own errors independently.
- Used clues in the story to help with reading words and understanding.
- Read with fluency and expression.
- Struggled to concentrate.
- Self-corrected his/her own errors.
- Found this book too hard to read.
- Able to read this book with lots of help.
- Struggled to work out a lot of the vocabulary.
- Did not understand what he has read.
- Could not retell the story.

Also, feel free to write your child refused to read, that way, we can support with encouraging your child to read at home.

We hope this guide helps you with reading at home. Please remember your child's teacher is always there to help you and support you with

your child's learning. If there are any questions, no matter how big or small, please contact us and we will be happy to help.