



Developing a love of reading at FPS



Reading for Pleasure at FPS

Books are more than the stories and facts inside; they are the key to unlocking the potential in every child. Here at FPS, our aims are to encourage and support children to become enthusiastic and thoughtful readers. We want our children to develop as confident and independent readers inspired by a love of literature and an enjoyment of reading for pleasure.

What does it mean to be a reader?

A reader is someone who loves to read. Being a reader means that you understand not just words but whole sentences. It means that you can comprehend everything you are reading. Children learn to read in different ways and at different ages.

The first part of a child's journey towards being a successful reader starts when the child is a baby and is listening to stories and rhymes. This encourages a love of language and stories and develops the child's vocabulary and understanding of language as they start to become familiar with word meaning and what words look like. A vital first stage of a child's development as a reader is to be able to 'read' pictures in a book. As this skill develops, children become able to use their grammatical skills to listen to words within a sentence and to make sense of what they can hear. Drawing children's attention to signs and

September 2024

reading aloud to them supports children in the recognition of those letters later in their reading journey.

Research shows that 'Poor vocabulary is the primary cause of academic failure.' [Becker 1977]. Aside from the direct teaching of vocabulary, which we undertake at school, reading is the most valuable way in which we can develop children's spoken and written vocabulary.

This vital vocabulary development starts at an early age, in the years before children even begin primary school. The following statistics demonstrate how important reading is to children's early development:

- By the age of two, children learn a new word every two hours. This means that by the time they start school, they should be familiar with over 10,000 words.
 - Children who do well in primary school have over 7,000 root words, whereas those who are unable to meet age-related expectations have only about 3,000 root words.
- There is a difference in reading performance equivalent to just over a year's schooling between young people who never read for enjoyment and those who read for up to 30 minutes per day.
- A child with weak language skills at age five is much less likely to be a strong reader at the age of 11 than a five year old with strong language skills.
- Children who often read books at age 10 and more than once a week at age 16 gain higher results in maths, vocabulary and spelling tests at age 16 than those who read less regularly

How can you support your child with reading at home?

During the first term at FPS, your child will be able to choose a 'family sharer' book from our class library to share with you at home. They will have a daily phonics session in class and will be learning to read and blend the sounds, and in autumn 2 will begin to come home with ditty sheets (sentences to read) but the focus for home learning in the autumn term is to read story and picture books to your child. There are some great tips for parents in this video link below on how to make reading pleasurable for you and your child.

<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/mGdlG2rp/BSVlyYhn>

September 2024

You will receive a log in for an app called 'Boom Reader.' Please log the reading you do at home with your child. It is great for us to see what your child has been reading and will also allow your child to receive a book worm badge.

Book worm badges...

Each half term every child at FPS is able to achieve a book worm badge for reading at home. They achieve their badge by reading at least four times a week to a parent.

Because Reception children do not come home with a book straight away, in order for them to achieve their book worm badge in the Autumn Term, parents must log reading to their child, at least three times a week on the Boom Reader app.



Regular (daily if possible) reading at home is a crucial part of reading. Having time in a quiet place to share a book 1:1 will help your child to become a more confident and fluent reader. Let them see you reading, follow your child's lead and make reading an enjoyable shared experience.

Talking to your child about books is also a crucial part of reading together. Model and expect good listening and encourage the understanding and use of new vocabulary. Ask your child questions, such as;

What sort of book is this? Fiction or Non-Fiction?

Fiction;

Who is the main character?

Where is the story set?

What do you think will happen next?

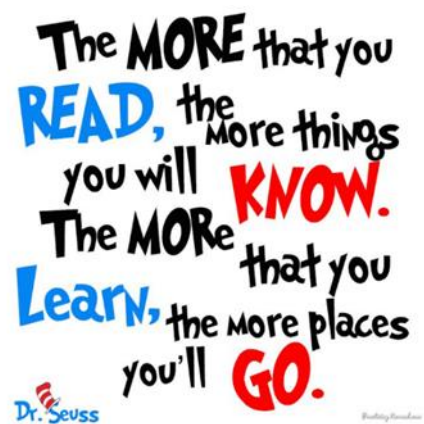
Which is your favourite character? Why?

What was your favourite part of the story? Why?

Did you like the ending? Why?

Tell me what happened in the story?

What do you think



September 2024

Non-Fiction;

What is this text about?

What is the title?

Where is the contents page? index page? glossary?

What is the contents page/index page/glossary used for?

Which parts interest you the most? why?

What can I do to help?

Most children learn best when they are doing something for a real purpose and because they want to, so playing games is an easy way to support their learning. There are lots of fun activities that you can do at home to help your child to enjoy reading;

Rhyming Activities

Listen to and join in with rhyming stories, e.g. The Gruffalo (Julia Donaldson).

Play rhyming games.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/curations/nursery-rhymes>

http://www.literactive.com/Download/live.asp?swf=story_files/washing_line_rhyme_US.swf

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Search.aspx?q=rhyme&p=2>

Phonic games

1. Make flashcards by writing letters on squares of paper/card. These flashcards can be used to play a variety of fun games

Snap - (you will need 2 sets of flashcards) Use them to play snap.

Bingo - make a bingo board with eight boxes and put a letter in each. Put the flashcards into a pile face down and take it in turns to be the bingo caller.

Phonics Fishing! Use letter flashcards, add a paperclip to each, tie a magnet to some string and a stick and ask your child to 'fish' for a particular sound.

September 2024

2. 'I spy' games, e.g. 'I spy something beginning with a...' using the letter sound when you are out and about.

Memory games

Play 'Kim's game'. Put a few items on a tray (e.g. a crayon, an apple, a building brick, a toy car). Then look, cover, remember and check!

Talk about, photograph or write out some 'events' from something you have done together - can your child remember the correct order?

Go shopping - try to remember the list together!

Listening games

Play games such as 'Simon says' - party games are often good ways to practice speaking, listening and memory skills, without them even noticing!

Listen to music and talk about the instruments being played - find pictures on the internet together.

Action games

Make a puppet theatre with cardboard boxes or a towel over a chair and encourage your child to make up or retell a story to you or any willing family members!

Have lots of fun dressing up with clothes and props at home (charity shops are a great source!) so that your child can dress up as a character and act out favourite stories.

Play games such as 'What's the time Mr Wolf?', but instead of saying the time write the times down for them to read.

Tactile games

Use magnetic letters to spell names and simple words on the fridge or radiator.

Use modelling clay to make your child's name or simple words like mum.

Enjoy jigsaws together and chat about finding the right pieces!

Screen games

Watch TV programmes linked to books and then read the books afterwards e.g. Little Princess (Channel 5), Katie Morag (CBeebies), Charlie and Lola (CBeebies). Talk about what they like or don't like about the characters.

Find story-telling sites like Little Kingdom , story-telling TV programmes or find story apps for your phone.

Look at DVDs from picture books together, e.g. Penguin (Dunbar)

Car journey games

Play 'The cook's cat is an amazing cat/beautiful cat/clever cat/daft cat... etc. and then make up your own versions (The doctor's dog...).

Play this noisy version of the car game, 'Who can spot...?'. It's great fun - but check out with the driver first before you start this one! Decide on a noise, or a word to call, when you spot the things you're looking out for - e.g. 'Bang!' for a yellow car; 'Buzzz!' for a bus; 'Wow!' for a bird.

Listen to an audiobook.

Out and about activities

Ask your child to find the things you need to buy when out shopping by reading the labels on products together.

Check out your local library or community centre to find out what special activities or clubs are running in term time or holidays.

Try to do a few visits or find some information together to link with the topic or project work at school.

Reading books of all kinds together

Carry on reading books of all kinds to and with your child: picture, words and pictures, pop up, information, poetry, eBooks, print books... and the levelled books brought home from school. Video or record your child reading it for fun!

There are some excellent websites to help support parents when they are reading to their child at home.

Coram Beanstalk website - [Tips for parents | Coram Beanstalk \(beanstalkcharity.org.uk\)](https://www.beanstalkcharity.org.uk)

September 2024

Book Trust Website - [Tips for reading with your child | BookTrust](#)

National Literacy Trust - [Reading to children is so powerful, so simple and yet so misunderstood | National Literacy Trust](#)

If you need any further help or support, please do not hesitate to see Mrs.Sharphouse or your child's class teacher.

September 2024