

Curriculum Update

Welcome to a new section of the weekly newsletter. Each week we will focus on a different area of the curriculum, sharing information about what and how we teach that subject across the school as well as any tips for how you can get involved.

This Christmas edition is all about **Reading**

Reading Books

Your child will bring home two books to read. One is either a decodable text or book banded text for your child to read to you. It has been carefully chosen so that they can work out all the words. The other book is borrowed from our school library, chosen by your child, and has words your child may not be able to read yet. It is for you to read to your child and talk about together. Children access the library with their class once a week to choose and borrow a book.



How to read a story 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.