

Reading at Home

Dear parents/carers,

Here at Oldfield, literacy matters and a culture of reading is central to this. If your child is to develop into, or remain, a confident, fluent and independent reader then regular practice is essential. After all, reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.

Studies show that reading for pleasure helps to develop social skills (particularly empathy), is good for mental health, and has a hugely positive impact upon performance/results in ALL subjects.

Therefore, **we expect your child to read at home for at least 15 minutes each day.**

How can you support reading at home?

- ✓ **Provide a suitable environment:** find a quiet space; turn electronic devices off and put them away (unless using them to read from!)
- ✓ **Make reading routine:** agree on a time and place for reading to take place each day and stick to it
- ✓ **Listen to them read**, correcting mispronunciation of words by modelling the correct pronunciation and asking them to repeat after you, reminding them to take instruction from punctuation marks (e.g. to pause, to exclaim!, etc.) and praising them as they go
- ✓ **Read to them**, asking them to stop you when you read a word that they don't know and then discussing the meaning of that word. If you can do accents, voices, etc. do them!
- ✓ **Alternate reading**, i.e. you read a paragraph, they read a paragraph, etc.
- ✓ **Talk to them about what's being read** (see suggested questions below)

Questions to ask about what's being read:

- What was that paragraph/section about?
- Can you put the word _____ into a sentence?
- What do you notice about (insert name of character, setting, etc.)?
- What do you think/feel about...?
- Can you sum up what we've read today? (You could give them a word limit, e.g. 5 words maximum)
- What was the most interesting/important part of what we've read today?
- What might happen next?



What if you don't have books at home?

- ✓ Your child has access to the school library in which there are over thirteen thousand books. They can borrow up to three books at a time. And it's FREE!

What else can you do?

- ✓ Make sure that your child has a reading book in their school bag every day
- ✓ Turn on subtitles when your child is watching TV
- ✓ Reward reading, e.g. reading every day of the week = a chocolate bar
- ✓ Show them that you read too, and talk to them about what you're reading

Thanks for your support and happy reading!

Mr Blower (Literacy Coordinator)