



Together, we learn and grow



Reading at home

Wednesday 21st September 2022

Dear Parents,

Thank you so much for all the families that attended the reading session this morning, it was lovely to see so many of you in school.

As you may have seen, your child will now be bringing home their new reading books. The children will be getting two different types of books. One book will be a phonics book that is matched to their phonics/reading ability and the other is a 'Read with Me' book. This is a book to share with your child, they might be able to recognise key words, picture clues and initial sounds. This book is to help your child develop a love of reading. Book change days are Mondays and Thursdays. Reading at home with your child is extremely important and you should aim to listen to your child read at least 4 times and record this in their reading record.

Why is reading so important to us and how do we make it a priority?

At Shepherdswell Academy, we believe that reading is key to children's learning and in order that all children develop the necessary knowledge and skills to become fluent, confident readers, we want to:

- promote a lifelong love of reading
- involve parents and carers in their child's reading journey
- celebrate your child's reading achievements

During the day, our children are exposed to a wide range of different types of age-appropriate books, from a variety of genres. Our children are encouraged to develop their reading knowledge and skills in different ways, including reading with an adult, listening to adults read, reading with friends and group reading sessions. In lessons across the curriculum, pupils are encouraged to use their reading skills to learn new concepts, develop understanding and explore the world around them. We will read in lessons, outside, in assemblies, in groups and as a class to children to motivate and enthuse their love of reading. Our pupils have access to books in the classrooms and our school library which they visit regularly to read in and take books from.

These books are called 'read with me books' and are children choose them based on their developing reading skills and understanding of what they are reading. The teaching staff will make an informed decision on which stage/ level book is most appropriate for your child.

Which reading systems do we use?

We currently use the 'Read Write Inc' scheme to develop early reading and phonics. Information about this is on our website and we will be running parent workshops in the second half of the Autumn term for parents.

What can I do at home to support my child's reading?

At Shepherdswell Academy we strongly believe in working in partnership with you and your child and reading with them at home is really important to support your child to practice their developing skills. In

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order to support the development of your child's reading skills, your child should be given the opportunity to read with someone at home a least of 4-times per week for about 5 to 15 minutes, as well as sharing stories with you. Children will be sent home with 2 books every week.

- I phonic reading book which will reflect the phonic/reading stage the children are at. This book should be read more than once to develop your child's confidence and fluency.
- I read with me book, which you can read or share with your child.

As part of learning to read it is really important that children have a clear understanding of what they are reading to develop that love of reading, and understand how stories develop, why things happen in the story and how that makes us and the characters feel, amongst other things. To support your child, with this it is key to ask them questions about what they have read and what they are reading, please use the laminated question sheet in your child's book bag.

Websites to support early reading

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/search/#!?type=Booklist&q=&cat=170&sortOption=Relevance&pageNo=1>

The book Trust

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

Oxford Owl

Remarkable Readers

To celebrate children reading at home and in school, every Friday one child from each class will be nominated for the 'Remarkable Reader' certificate. As well as getting the certificate they will get golden token that can be used in our book vending machine.

If you have any questions about how you can support your child with their reading at home, please ask you class teacher or myself.

Mrs Williams

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