

Reading at home: a guide for parents

Books are more than the stories and facts inside; they are the key to unlocking the potential in every child. At Osbaston we believe that the ability to read fluently and with understanding is essential to the development of children as independent learners. Research shows that the skill of reading, as an early educational milestone, accurately predicts lifelong academic achievement. Reading for pleasure also has very positive social and emotional consequences as well as increasing knowledge.

During your child's time with us we aim to:

- To encourage and support children to become enthusiastic and thoughtful readers through their engagement with challenging and enriching texts
- To inspire children to read from a wide variety of genres and text types
- For our children to read with confidence, fluency and understanding
- For our children to develop as confident and independent readers inspired by a love of literature and an enjoyment of reading for pleasure.

How do we promote and develop reading at Osbaston?

- In Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 pupils learn their letter sounds & names through Read Write Inc. They also learn how to form their letters correctly so that they can become independent writers too. Children need lots of support & practice from home at this early stage.
- Guided reading: this takes place **daily** in every classroom from Reception up to Year 6. It is an opportunity for the teacher to sit with a group of readers, listen to them read & engage in rich discussion about the text being read. Teachers check children's reading records to ensure they are getting plenty of reading practice at home; we hope that would be everyday for all learners (but a minimum of 4 times a week).
- Reading activities in class: teachers plan & deliver a variety of reading focused learning opportunities which enable pupils to develop a deeper & more sophisticated understanding of a text. This can also include taking part in carefully chosen webinars with renowned professionals.
- Regular visits to Monmouth Library support reading for pleasure; we encourage all pupils to get a library card so that they can use the library out of school time too. We are proud that our school has the highest number of library users of all local schools.
- Book Fairs: we aim to run book fairs throughout the year so that pupils & families have an opportunity to buy books at affordable prices. We are often able to buy new material for classroom libraries from commission earned from sales.
- Professional visitors: we have visits from inspirational authors, illustrators, drama specialists, book binders etc who share their knowledge, skills & expertise with pupils & staff.
- Professional learning: our staff are very committed & dedicated to the development of reading in our school & regularly participate in professional learning.
- Reading to children: all classes are read to by their teacher, whether it's a quick read or a longer novel. This allows us to share our enthusiasm for reading alongside providing a positive & fluent model for reading aloud. It creates magic & excitement within the classroom community, develops good listening skills & serves as a building block for critical thinking skills that go beyond reading itself.



The **MORE** that you
READ, the more things
you will **KNOW**.
The **MORE** that you
LEARN, the more places
you'll **GO**.

How can parents help their child with reading?

Reception

- Build a routine: find a comfortable, quiet place to share & enjoy a story every day together, away from distractions.
- Track your finger as you read to show that books are read left to right & top to bottom of the page.
- Encourage children to 'read' & retell the story in their own words using the pictures.
- Read traditional & well-known stories & join in with repeating text.
- Ask 'why' questions to encourage comprehension skills.
- Read a range of texts. & include traditional stories & nursery rhymes
- Play i-spy
- Begin to read three sound words by pushing the sounds together c a t – cat.

Year 1

- Listen to your child read daily & ask them lots of questions about the text.
- Read to your child -it shows them how to read fluently & with expression.
- Model correct speech & pronunciation.
- Read a range of different texts - recipes, leaflets, newspapers
- Show your child how to find information in a book.
- Encourage your child to break up (segment) words into their sound parts & blend them (push them back together) to read the whole word.
- Play games like 'I Spy...'& learn nursery rhymes.

Year 2

- Listen to your child read daily & ask questions about characters, the setting, the plot.
- Read to your child as often as possible - model reading for pleasure.
- Continue to practise letter sounds & use segmenting & blending to read unfamiliar words.
- Discuss meanings of words & alternatives.
- Make predictions & give reasons to explain why.
- What do the pictures suggest? Why?
- Identify key themes & relate to own experiences.
- Learn to recite nursery rhymes & favourite poems.

Year 3

- Listen to your child read daily & discuss meanings of new words & phrases.
- Read from a range of text types including fiction, non-fiction & poetry.
- Draw inferences about characters' feelings, words & actions - what is suggested in the text?
- Predict what might happen using evidence from the text.
- Identify key themes & summarise in own words.
- Consider why an author has used a certain layout, vocabulary etc.
- Retrieve & record information from texts.
- Retell fairy tales orally.

Year 4

- Listen to your child read daily & model how to pronounce tricky new words.
- Read from a range of text types - different topics, authors, styles. What genre is it?
- Broaden vocabulary when speaking to your child, clarifying meaning of new words.
- Predict what might happen from the details stated & implied.
- Identify the main ideas drawn from more than one paragraph & summarise.
- Compare to other books by same author or on same topic.
- Discuss choice of language used & why.
- Read to your child

Year 5

- Listen to your child read daily & discuss meaning of new vocabulary
- Read from a range of text types - different topics, authors, styles. What genre is it?
- Read difficult texts to your child & discuss themes.
- Encourage your child to read quietly to themselves for longer periods of time.
- Discuss effectiveness of authors' use of language & how info is organised
- Recommend books to others giving reasons why.
- Make comparisons within & across books.
- Learn poetry by heart.
- Fact vs opinion
- Justify own views

Year 6

- Listen to your child read daily & discuss the text in depth.
- Read from a range of text types - different topics, authors, styles. Identify the genre & how they know.
- Read difficult texts to your child & discuss themes.
- Encourage them to ask questions to clarify understanding.
- Identify how language, structure & presentation contribute to meaning.
- Fact, opinion & bias - find supporting evidence.
- Retrieve, record & present information from own reading.
- Provide evidence to justify opinion.