



Department  
for Education

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Dear Parents/ Carers.

The following guidance has been released by the Department for Education for your reading, interest and information. It outlines the importance and benefits of reading for supporting children's learning, progress and development. I have copied the released guidance for you:

Promotional material

## 10 top tips for parents to support children to read

Published 16 July 2020

### **1. Encourage your child to read**

*Reading helps your child's wellbeing, develops imagination and has educational benefits too. Just a few minutes a day can have a big impact on children of all ages.*

### **2. Read aloud regularly**

*Try to read to your child every day. It's a special time to snuggle up and enjoy a story. Stories matter and children love re-reading them and poring over the pictures. Try adding funny voices to bring characters to life.*

### **3. Encourage reading choice**

*Give children lots of opportunities to read different things in their own time - it doesn't just have to be books. There's fiction, non-fiction, poetry, comics, magazines, recipes and much more. Try leaving interesting reading material in different places around the home and see who picks it up.*

### **4. Read together**

*Choose a favourite time to read together as a family and enjoy it. This might be everyone reading the same book together, reading different things at the same time, or getting your children to read to each other. This time spent reading together can be relaxing for all.*

From tiny acorns mighty oaks grow...



### **5. Create a comfortable environment**

*Make a calm, comfortable place for your family to relax and read independently - or together.*

### **6. Make use of your local library**

*Libraries in England are able to open from 4th July, so visit them when you're able to and explore all sorts of reading ideas. Local libraries also offer brilliant online materials, including audiobooks and e-books to borrow. See [Libraries Connected](#) for more digital library services and resources.*

### **7. Talk about books**

*This is a great way to make connections, develop understanding and make reading even more enjoyable. Start by discussing the front cover and talking about what it reveals and suggests the book could be about. Then talk about what you've been reading and share ideas. You could discuss something that happened that surprised you, or something new that you found out. You could talk about how the book makes you feel and whether it reminds you of anything.*

### **8. Bring reading to life**

*You could try cooking a recipe you've read together. Would you recommend it to a friend? Alternatively, play a game where you pretend to be the characters in a book, or discuss an interesting article you've read.*

### **9. Make reading active**

*Play games that involve making connections between pictures, objects and words, such as reading about an object and finding similar things in your home. You could organise treasure hunts related to what you're reading. Try creating your child's very own book by using photos from your day and adding captions.*

### **10. Engage your child in reading in a way that suits them**

*You know your child best and you'll know the best times for your child to read. If they have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) then short, creative activities may be the way to get them most interested. If English is an additional language, encourage reading in a child's first language, as well as in English. What matters most is that they enjoy it.*

The above guidance mirrors very much our own school's emphasis upon reading as noted within our Ofsted Inspection Report February 2020:

Leaders place great importance on reading. Children soon settle into Reception classes. Relationships are warm and trusting. Nursery rhymes and stories are part of every day. Children love joining in with favourite books, such as 'Jack and The Flumflum Tree'. This helps them to develop strong language and communication skills.

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A well-organised phonics programme starts as soon as children join the school. Early reading books are well matched to the sounds and letters that pupils know. Teachers are well trained and skilful. They use assessment information well to build on what children know. Teachers identify children who find reading more difficult. The weakest readers have extra help to practise their sounds more often. Leaders keep a close eye on making sure that this is helping them to catch up.

On top of this, a love of reading is palpable. Pupils care for the well-used library. Teachers read stories and poetry aloud in daily sessions. This brings language to life. Pupils talk about inspirational poets, such as Benjamin Zephaniah and Lemn Sissay. Class books are chosen carefully so that pupils hear about and discuss moral issues, such as the refugee crisis. This supports pupils' moral, social and cultural development. Pupils are well prepared for the next step in their education. Very many pupils achieve high standards in reading.

It would help us immensely therefore if you would continue to support your child's reading during the summer holidays – encouraging them to relax with a book or to read a range of different texts as described above whilst sitting on the sofa, lying on their beds, deck chairs – weather permitting – or on holiday.

We will continue with our focus upon reading in the new school year but nurturing the enjoyment and pleasure of reading in the meantime, would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your support and I wish you all a happy, relaxing holiday.

Yours sincerely,

*S Arnold*

Mr Arnold

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