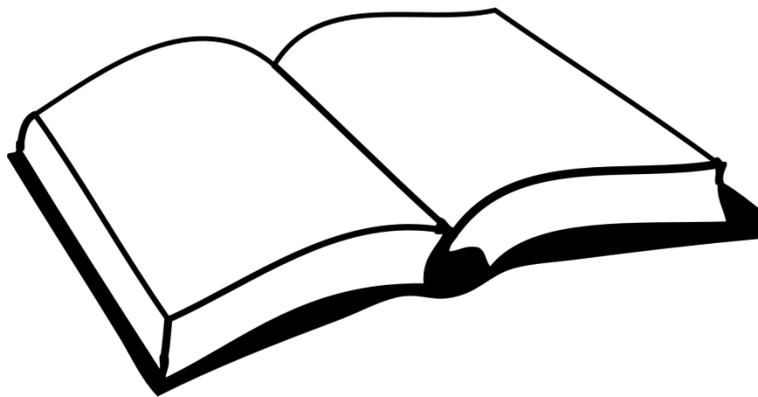




# HOPTON'S GUIDE TO READING AT SCHOOL AND HOME 'BETTER TOGETHER'



Helping children to make progress in reading is most successful when it is done in partnership between home and school. Any support you can give will improve your child's progress.

"The more you **read**  
the more **things** you know.  
The more that you **learn**  
the more **places** you'll go."  
-Dr. Seuss

# Reading in School

Reading is a vital tool for learning and for life. Research shows that children who enjoy reading achieve better at school. Reading not only helps us to widen our knowledge and experiences but also allows us to increase our confidence in many aspects of our lives.

Reading is given a high priority within school and is used across the entire school curriculum. Each class has a dedicated reading area and the school library is well stocked with a range of Accelerated Reader books and Non-fiction books.

Children will read regularly in school. Each class has a class reader which is read aloud to them every day; they have guided reading sessions; the children read independently; and sometimes they will read one-to-one with an adult.

When the children first join us in Reception they will be encouraged to read using phonics. Their first reading books will be picture books to develop basic book skills and introduce them to the characters they will meet in later books. Then pupils will have books to support their phonics and gradually will use Oxford Reading Tree to develop these skills, until pupils are ready to start Accelerated Reader.

In order for children to become able and independent readers they need to have:

- Fluency - children who can read at a comfortable speed with appropriate expression.
- Accuracy - children who can 'decode' words they are reading without interrupting the flow.
- Understanding - children who can follow content of what they read.
- Enjoyment and confidence - children who will become lifelong readers because it is a useful and pleasurable thing to do.

## Reading **TOGETHER** at home



### Reading Aloud

Research has shown that reading aloud to children of all ages helps to develop their writing skills. It helps children to develop their knowledge of language and story structures. It also helps them to develop ideas that they can use in their own stories. We encourage the pupils to be 'magpies' and steal ideas.

### Take it in turns

Help your child to read more challenging stories by taking it in turns to read parts of the story with you reading the lengthier, more challenging parts and your child reading the parts in between.

## **YOU** reading

### Read things YOU enjoy

It is valuable for children to see adults reading themselves. Showing your child that you enjoy reading a book or a newspaper, will help them so see the value of reading.

### Read Again & Again

When you find a story that you and your child enjoy, don't be afraid to read it again and again. It enables your child to recognise patterns and make links between different words. Re-reading stories also helps them to understand the story better and develop their comprehension skills.

Vary the way you tell it and try to involve your child by doing actions or saying certain words.

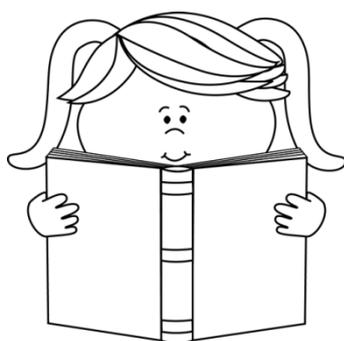
## **THEM** reading

### Reluctant Reader?

Try to resist 'forcing' your child to read – the aim is for your child to 'want' to read.

### Choosing books

Don't just read the reading books from school, read as many different books as you can. Encourage your child to find books for themselves at the library. Children can get a lot of joy from a book even when they cannot understand the words.



### When They Get Stuck

- Help them 'sound out' words.
- Encourage them to break the word up and point out parts of words they already know such as "me" in "meat"
- Encourage them to use pictures to help them make sense of what they are reading
- Ask them to suggest words that would make sense in the context of what they have read

### When They Find it Too Easy

- Help them to **understand** basic punctuation by stopping at full stops and pausing at commas
- Encourage them to **vary** their tone and pace as they read
- Make them **aware** of speech marks and encourage them to experiment with expression and intonation
- **Encourage** them to make links with similar stories.

# Quick Tips for at Reading Home

- ❖ **Read anywhere and everywhere.** While you are out with your children doing daily activities, read signs, letters, numbers, logos – so that they know that writing means something.
- ❖ **Don't just read books.** Read anything – newspapers, emails, texts, road signs and posters.
- ❖ **Be Positive.** Praise your child for trying hard at their reading. Let them know it's all right to make mistakes. Turn off the TV! It's easier for your child to concentrate if there are no distractions.
- ❖ **Children love to copy adults.** If you sit down with a book or magazine for 10 minutes, it doesn't just give you a break, it sets a great example for your kids too.
- ❖ **Don't read for too long.** A good ten minutes is better than a difficult half hour.
- ❖ **Chat.** Talk about things that you see in the book; who's in it, what they did and where.
- ❖ **Let them read their favourites.** It's good to practice to read the same books over and over again.
- ❖ **Act it out.** Children can act out stories, this will help them to tell stories based on what they've read and heard.
- ❖ **Ways with words.** Talk about what different words mean and read aloud any words that your child does not know. This is how children learn new words and helps them to become better readers.
- ❖ **Tell stories together.** Talking about your day and what you did means sharing time with your child. Telling stories, both real and made up, can help your child become a reader and a writer of stories.
- ❖ **Be patient.** Give your child time to have a go at a word and to sound it out.

