



Reading

Parent Guide

Wood End First School



This leaflet aims to explain how we teach reading in school and how you can help your child at home.

Dear Parents,

At Wood End, we believe that it is very important for children in all year groups to develop a love of books and enthusiasm for promoting their reading skills, to enable them to gain knowledge and enjoyment from reading. As a parent, you are their first teacher and once your child is at school you can play a vital role in the partnership between home and school by supporting your child's learning.



Top Ten Tips for Reading at Home



1. Choose a quiet time.

Set aside a quiet time with no distractions.

Just 10-15 minutes will definitely make a difference and more time is even better.

Top Ten Tips for Reading at Home

2. Make reading enjoyable.

Make reading an enjoyable experience.

Sit somewhere comfortable with your child.

Try not to pressurise if he or she is reluctant.

If your child loses interest, then do something else.

Try re-reading sentences to make them sound more like talking; use all the punctuation to get more expression into your reading.

3. Maintain the flow.

If your child mispronounces a word, do not interrupt immediately. Instead, allow them the opportunity for self-correction. It is better to tell a child some unknown words to maintain the flow, rather than insisting on trying to build them all up from the sounds of the letters. If your child does try to 'sound out' words, encourage the use of letter sounds rather than 'alphabet names'.



4. Be positive.

If your child says something nearly right to start with, that is fine. Don't say, "No, that's wrong," but, "Let's read it together," and point to the words as you say them. Boost your child's confidence with constant praise for even the smallest achievement.

Top Ten Tips for Reading at Home

5. Success is the key.

Challenging a child with a book that is too difficult can have an adverse effect. Remember, 'nothing succeeds like success'. Until your child has built up confidence, it is better to keep to easier books. Struggling with a book with many unknown words is pointless. Flow is lost, text cannot be understood and children can easily become reluctant readers.

6. Visit the library.

Encourage your child to use the school library and the public library regularly.



7. Regular practice.

Try to read with your child on most school days. 'Little and often' is best.

**THE MORE THAT YOU
READ, THE MORE
THINGS YOU WILL
KNOW. THE MORE THAT
YOU LEARN, THE MORE
PLACES YOU'LL GO.**

- DR. SEUSS

Top Ten Tips for Reading at Home

8. Communicate

Try to communicate regularly with your child's teacher, with positive comments and any concerns. Your child will then know that you are interested in their progress and that you value reading. Remember to log in the Home-School Link booklet that you have read, so that your child can earn their stickers.

9. Talk about the books.

There is more to being a good reader than simply being able to read text accurately. It is just as important to be able to understand the words used. Always talk to your child about the book — about the pictures, the characters, how they think the story will end and their favourite part. They can show you how well they have understood, and you will help them to develop good comprehension skills.

10. Variety is important.

Remember to let your child experience a variety of reading materials, e.g. picture books, hardbacks, comics, magazines, poems and information books. Signs, packaging, labels and logos are for reading too. 'Read the world!'



Reading in School



All children take part in a daily **Read, Write, Inc.** lesson in which they are taught skills needed for reading and writing.

Foundation children begin to learn Speed Sounds Set 1 each day as a whole class, then practise writing the sounds in small groups. Once they can recognise and blend all the sounds, they are ready to begin to read the Red Ditties and progress through the story books and the RWI programme.

In **Years 1 and 2**, the children learn in small groups, formed according to their ability with Speed Sounds. They follow a daily 60 minute RWI programme, reviewing and learning new sounds, reading green and red words, story books and completing writing activities.

Year 2 children who have completed the programme follow the Read Write Inc. Language and Literacy scheme which covers both fiction and non-fiction texts at a higher level.

Children are assessed every 6-8 weeks and the groups are adjusted accordingly.

- **Shared Reading:** The whole class read together with the teacher, demonstrating reading strategies.

- **1:1 Reading:** Children read individually to an adult.

- **Story Time:** Children listen to stories being read to them.

- **Author of the Term:** The school focuses on a particular author.

The children learn about the author and listen to their stories and/or poems. There is usually a home learning challenge linked to the author.

- **Weekly Library Sessions:** All children are given the opportunity to visit the school library to borrow books; we have a wide and interesting selection in our library. Please try to make sure children return their books to school regularly so that they can make the best use of this opportunity.

There are many other opportunities for reading in school and often topic work will be linked to a story. We celebrate World Book Day and have visitors in to read and share stories with the children.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **What if my child doesn't want to read?** Don't force them. Read the book to them or share the reading. Suggest 'you read a page, I read a page.' You be the teacher. Make it easy, make it fun! Try to find a book that will inspire them. Keep sharing books and take the pressure off your child for a while. Come and talk to us in school if you are having difficulties and we will try to support you with strategies.
- **Why is the book too easy? Why aren't they moving up a colour band?** Reading at home should not be a chore and we are not trying to catch the children out by making it too hard. Children should be able to read MOST of the book easily without much support from you. We need to know that the child fully understands the content and is able to talk about the meaning. If the child feels successful when reading, they are more likely to enjoy reading and make better progress.
- **How can I help my child if they get stuck?** When your child gets stuck on a word, encourage them to work it out in different ways:
 - "Do you know a word that looks like that?"
 - "Can you use your sounds ('use your Fred talk') e.g. c -a -t = cat"
 - "Look at the pictures."
 - "What word would sound right in this sentence?"



Helping At Home

We want to praise children for reading at home. At Wood End, we will collect in Home-School Link Booklets each week and count the number of times your child has read at home. Each time your child has read, they will earn a sticker (maximum: 5 per week) and stickers will earn them rewards.

20 stickers = **bronze** bookmark | **40** stickers = **silver** bookmark

60 stickers = **gold** bookmark | **100** stickers = **platinum** key ring

Please help us know you have read with your child by writing the name of the book they have read in the space provided in their Home-School Link booklet. Your child can change their book every day in school if they would like — as children begin to read longer texts, they will not need to do this.

Early books with words: When your child first starts school, they may be given a book without any words. This is to help get them used to bringing home a reading book and to practise good habits. They will quickly move on to books with simple words.

- Talk about the characters and story.
- You could read it to your child first.
- Encourage your child to point to the words as you read.
- Your child might be able to find a few words they do know: have a word hunt.
- They might know the first sound of some words.
- Let your child join in as you read, especially with repeated phrases.
- When your child knows more sounds, start to sound out the words.

As your child progresses with reading: Discuss the story in more detail...

- Ask why things happened,
- Ask why the characters behaved as they did,
- Talk about what might happen next.
- Talk about how we know how the characters feel.
- What was your favourite part?
- Which words show you the character was happy / sad?

Phrases you could use to support your child:

- “Well done, you had a go.”
- “Well done, you used expression.”
- “Good, you corrected yourself.”
- “Good try, but did it make sense?”
- “Good try, but did that sound right?”
- “I like how you re-read that bit to check you understood / got it right.”
- “Let’s try reading that word again.”
- “Don’t forget to follow the punctuation.”
- 8 • “Listen and I will demonstrate this sentence.”

