

Reading is one of the most important skills that your child will learn in Primary school. As parents you will have already done an awful lot towards teaching your child to read. The aim of this booklet is to give you some extra ideas and support.

How is reading taught and assessed at school?

At Bluecoat, children are taught the key skills of reading through Phonics or spelling sessions, whole class shared reading, small group guided reading and individual reading sessions. Their reading ability is assessed through a range of activities and assessments. The information is used to ensure that children are given reading books at the appropriate level. This will mean that children have adequate skills to read at least 90% of the words in their book without support. This will be because they can:

- 1) Identify some words on sight.
- 2) Use their phonics skills and word knowledge to decode words containing a range of different spelling patterns

Reading books

Reading books will be changed at a child's request, however, an adult will always check to ensure that the child's new book is at the appropriate level. Please encourage children to re-read their books. From reading books more than once, they will develop confidence and familiarity with the story language and structure. This will help to develop their fluency and also their writing skills.

The development of children's comprehension skills is really important in KS2. You can support children in this by :

- 1) Asking simple questions about what they have read.
- 2) Asking them to point to specific parts of the book that gave them the information.
- 3) Asking them what certain words mean.
- 4) Asking them to make predictions based on what they have read
- 5) Asking them to summarise what they have read

Expectations

Regular practice at home will make a huge difference to your child's reading. Please hear your child read at least **3 times** per week and *sign their diary* each time.

- Fit reading times into your daily routine to make it easier to manage. For example 5 minutes before tea-time or bed. Your child does not have to read a whole book; little and often is best.
- Get the whole family involved! Ask grandparents, older brothers and sisters and aunts and uncles to read with your child! (Don't forget to ask them to sign their reading diary! A simple initial and smiley face in the record is fine if they are short of time!)
- Make it a fun and enjoyable experience - Remember, we are trying to develop a life-long love of reading.

It may be appropriate for children in upper KS2 to read independently but it is important that you still ask them questions about their reading

How can I help my child with reading?



- Share books together!
- When reading if a child is really struggling to read a word simply read the word for them.
- Make sure that your child sees you reading.
- Go to the library.
- Point out that text is everywhere e.g. in newspapers, magazines, blogs and on the internet.
- Involve your child in writing - cards, shopping lists, notes, text messages, thank you letters etc.
- Show your child how to find things out by reading
- Make reading a pleasure and praise your child's efforts.
- Bring stories to life with lots of expression and silly voices.

Children will be rewarded in school for reading at home.

Happy reading!

If you would like further advice on how to help your child with reading please do not hesitate to ask their class teacher or Mrs Baker our Reading Lead.

Useful Websites

www.oxfordowl.co.uk

www.booksfortopics.com

www.bookstrust.org.uk

<http://www.getreadingright.co.uk/resources/free->

www.letters-and-sounds.com

www.topmarks.co.uk

www.ictgames.com

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

READING



Bluecoat Academy
believe in yourself, in others, in God

KS2

Wherever you see a star like this, you will find tips for how to support your child at home.



Please remember all children progress at different rates.
Praise lots for their efforts as well as their achievements.

