

Reading - information for EYFS (reception) parents/carers



At Terrington St Clement Community School we recognise and value the importance of our learners becoming confident, successful, independent readers. We are keen to work together with you in supporting your child on their journey towards achieving this.

For any age group, even if interests and abilities vary, it is crucial to establish a love of books and get learners to ask questions, come up with their own answers, believe they are a reader and most importantly have fun with reading.

It is our role to get books right at this age, to build literacy foundations and keep children engaged with reading. Books should be all about fun – and definitely not about being obliged to read.

Whether your child is reading books alone or you are reading together with them, no matter. And on that note, having story time at home each day and making it a regular habit is one of the best things you can do for your child. It helps cultivate active listening skills, gives them a head start on language skills, reduces screen time and makes them much more likely to pick up the habit of reading.

There is considerable evidence to show the link between reading regularly with a child and success in their future academic achievements, mental wellbeing and in the wider world as a whole. Reading is an important life skill.

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher if you have any questions or would like to discuss things further.

'I'm wondering what to read next...'
Matilda, Roald Dahl

Reading At School



Your child will be reading every day at school to practice, develop and apply their reading skills through a range of activities and in different subjects eg. maths, literacy, understanding the world, PE.

It is important to acknowledge that all our learners will be at different stages of working towards becoming a confident, successful, independent reader. Some learners at this stage in school life are not yet ready to read unaided; others are reading fluently and independently. But in either case, generally it's the books with child-friendly topics, imaginative characters and captivating illustrations that fit the bill best. They are the books that open up a whole new world to the learner and whet appetites to turn more pages and open more books - the ultimate goal. Learners begin to see themselves as 'readers'.

Together with this booklet, we will provide guidance, helpful tips, age-appropriate recommended readers and updates to support you with reading at home.

Bookmarks

Each week your child will bring home a bookmark. It will be part of the weekly book bundle. This will be how you share reading you do with your child at home with school. Over the course of the year on the bookmark there will be links to reading skills and phonics we are practising in school. By working together to support your child's reading, we maximise the opportunities for success in achieving this.

Please feel free to write comments on the bookmark or if you prefer write the date, title of the book shared, tick and initial daily so we know you are reading at home.

Reading At Home



Ideally, please try to engage in reading with your child every day. Make the most of everyday reading activities such as reading road signs, cereal packets, swimming/bus timetables, shop opening times, leaflets, comics. These are all valuable opportunities to read and the more they do this the wider range of words they will be able to or attempt to read. Reading should be viewed as something that happens all the time and this enables learners to practice, develop, apply, gain confidence and eventually embed their reading skills.

At the start of each week, we will provide your child with a **book bundle**. Within this bundle, there will be a selection of books for you to share at home eg. 1 x decodable book, 1 x library books and a guided reading booklet linked to weekly themes and phonics.

How to make the most of the book bundle -

1. **1 x decodable book** - (starting week 3). To begin with we want to encourage learners to tell their own stories and share their understanding of how books and stories work. They will then move on to books with words which are closely matched to the learner's phonics ability and enable them to develop a sense of success as a reader. The significant fact of these books is that they should be practised four times over the course of the week in order to develop fluency and confidence to read independently as much as the text as possible on sight.
2. **1 x library book** - the purpose of these books is to widen your child's reading experiences and promote reading for pleasure. It also exposes learners to 'real books' and the rich language these have to offer. Feel free to read the text to your child on the first read. Encourage them to track the text with you as you read,

to spot words they can read in the text and also join in any repetitive phases. Again, re-reading texts enables your child to develop confidence to read texts for themselves. The more you model and share the same text, the more they will begin to do this for themselves and develop the self-confidence and self-awareness of seeing themselves as a reader .

3. **1 x guided reading booklet** - these reading booklets are written by staff to link to our stories/ activities and phonics we are focusing on that week. They will include harder to read & spell words we are learning and repetitive phrases to practise reading. We will have read the booklet together as part of a group at school and then your child will be able to practice again at home with you. Encourage your child to track the text with their finger as they read each word. We encourage you to revisit and re-read these booklets to develop confidence and sight vocabulary.
4. **Always make time for reading.** Ensure there is lots of discussion and ask questions when you are reading together. **Most importantly, it should be enjoyable.**

For example:

- What do you see on this page?
- How do you think the characters feel?
- What do you think is going to happen next?

When you have finished, talk about how your child feels about the book:

- What did they like?
- What didn't they like?
- What can they remember about what happened?
- Who was their favourite character? Why?
- Link the story to their own experiences. Can they remember when they did something similar?

Your child can achieve their reading badge by reading books at home. To make these count, complete the bookmark and return to school.

'Children are made readers on the laps of their parents'
Emilie Buchwald