

## How can you help your child at home?

Try to make every reading session fun and enjoyable.

Find a quiet, comfortable place to read together.

Read for about 10 minutes; a regular short time of quality is better than a long session which happens only occasionally.

Encourage your child with positive comments and support them with their reading.

Talk about the cover and the title.

Look at the pictures and ask them to tell you Where the story takes place.

Who can they see in the pictures.

Recognise and discuss issues and themes

Evaluate the behaviours, actions and personalities of characters.

Ask the child to refer back to the text for evidence in order to justify opinions.

If your child gets stuck you could:

- ✓ Let them read on so they can work out the word for themselves from the context.
- ✓ point to a picture if it will help them guess a meaning.
- ✓ give them the first or last sound to help them.
- ✓ read along with them then pause, prompt, praise if they get it right.
- ✓ Read the word for them.
- ✓ When they are confident with sounds, let them sound out unknown words- break longer words down in to syllables.
- ✓ Do not sound out words which are not Phonetic e.g "because"

When a mistake is self-corrected or a previous unknown word is recognised, praise highly. Encourage expressive reading by drawing attention to punctuation.

## Useful Questions.

### Reception and Key Stage One

Who is in the story?

Where is the story set?

Can you use the picture to tell part of the story?

How do you think the story will end?

What will happen next?

Do you like the characters? Why?

What happens in the story?

What did the characters say? Why?

How did a character scare, upset or help another character?

Has this ever happened to you? How did you feel?

Can you put the main events in order?

How would you feel at this point in the story?

What would you do?

How do you think a character feels?

### Key Stage Two

Can you explain why you think a character did that in the story?

What does this word/phrase tell you about the character/ setting?

Which words did you like the most? Why?

What did the character mean when they said.....?

Did the actions of the character surprise you?

Why? Why did the character behave in that way?

What clues are there in the story that a character is happy, angry, sad, excited etc?

Can you describe what a character thinks of another character? How did the writer make you think this?

How does the writer create atmosphere before and after an event?

Who is the 'voice' in the text?

Which character does the writer want you to like or dislike? How have they done this?

# Featherstone Wood Primary School Reading At Home



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Dear Parents and Carers

At Featherstone Wood Primary School we consider reading to be of great importance and the key to many aspects of learning.

In school your child will experience a wide range of reading opportunities which include:

- independent reading
- group guided reading (Teacher or Teaching Assistants working with a group to develop particular reading skills)
- shared text work in Literacy lessons
- comprehension activities
- research (using ICT/ reference books)

Some of these may happen in the Literacy/ Guided Reading session but equally, the children may have these opportunities through any of the other subjects.

This leaflet is designed to help you help your child at home. You may find it useful for home learning. If you would like any further help with your child's reading please make a note of it in their home-school diary.

### Reading At Home



Each day your child will come home with a reading book. This will usually be a book chosen by your child. There may be times when your child is reading a book at home which they are really enjoying and you may wish to ask your child's teacher if they can use the reading book as their school reading book.

#### Making the reading time valuable.

- ✓ Please encourage your child to read this book to you / independently.
- ✓ Try to spend ten to fifteen minutes listening to your child read every day.
- ✓ Always encourage your child to stop if the reading doesn't make sense and have another go.
- ✓ During the reading session stop at key points and ask your child questions to ensure they have understood what they are reading.

To help you there is a list of key questions included on this leaflet.

### Home-School Diary

All children in the school are given a home-school diary. This needs to be brought into school each day with the child's reading book. The staff will record in their diary when they have worked with your child on a specific reading activity. We also ask parents to sign and date when you hear your child read at home. If you wish to make a comment when

you hear your child read there is space for this also.

### Guided Reading

Each week the children work with the teacher on a Guided Reading activity. This is a planned lesson giving the teacher opportunity to teach or practice the relevant reading skills for your child's ability. We use this session to teach different reading strategies, hear your child individually and ask questions to ensure their understanding of the text.



### Library Books



This term we are keen to encourage every child to use the school's library. Our school library holds a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction books and a great deal of time has been spent organising it for the benefit of the children of Featherstone Wood. Each week, every class will be given a library session and your child will be encouraged to choose their own library book. Parents will be able to join their child during this time to help and encourage them to choose a book which they will enjoy. As soon as the library code of conduct form has been completed by the child's parent or carer, your child will be able to bring their library book home as part of their home reading learning.

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