

How to help your child to read their school reading book:

In the first 3-4 weeks of Reception, your child will receive two books a week. This will be on a Monday and a Friday. These are what we call our 'Sharing Books'. This is a book you will read to your child. A story each night at bedtime is important quality time with your child and helps children's love of reading develop. Please share your child's book with them at least **twice a week**. Reading a book more than once helps children to be familiar with the book and have more confidence when retelling the story. Any reading can be recorded in your child's reading record; **all reading is important and valued!** From week 4 onwards, your child will take home a Phonics reading book.

By week 4 children will have completed their first phonics assessment. They will then start to take home a phonics book every Wednesday based on their phonic knowledge. Most children will start by taking a wordless book home. These books are to help the development of storytelling and an interest in books. Children will then move onto books with words in, where there are pictures and some words with the sounds they have been learning in Phonics. With wordless books, your role is to encourage 'book talk' in different ways. With books with words, we encourage children to blend by saying the sounds and blending them back together-s-a-t...sat.

Discuss the features:

Look at the cover – what can you see? What do you think it could be about? Which characters are in this book?

Find the title – the name of the book. Read this to your child. Talk about what the title makes you think about the book.

Where do you think the story is set?

Is it a story book or an information book?



Ask questions & get children thinking:

What might happen next?

Why did that happen?

How are the characters feeling?

Did you like that part?

Which part of the story was your favourite?

Can you think of a different ending?

What would happen if...

Until children get confident with such questions, you may need to model answering for them.



Discuss the pictures:

Take your time and look at all of the pictures in the book, turn the pages carefully and talk about each page – give children the language to discuss the stories. There may be pictures of things they don't know, it is your job to explain the things they see.

If your child is not confident to talk about the story, say your ideas out loud: "I think..." "I like..." "I wonder..."

Talk about what you can see: What is happening?

What are the characters doing? How are they feeling?

How do you know?

Make up a story together.



Make reading fun:

Add funny voices.

Include games such as I-spy - Make up a challenge – who can spot the most... can you find...

Get creative with the story - The beauty of having a no words in a book is that you can make up anything.

We want children to handle books carefully, to enjoy stories and looking at books. Reading plays a vital role in children's development.

Reading is the gateway to the curriculum. Once your child can read, they can achieve anything!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.
Mrs Cahill

Make space and time to read together. Turn off the TV and devices, have 5-10 minutes with your story, snuggle up and have special time together.

