

READING AT GOOSEWELL

Nothing contributes more to a child's early education than listening to stories and sharing books! The extent to which children read and enjoy books has a significant impact on their progress and attainment across the curriculum.

All of our pupils have a reading record which is shared between home and school. This provides an opportunity for reading to be recorded and for parents and teachers to communicate with each other easily.

Our younger children take home their Oxford Reading Tree reading book each day. In addition to this, they may take home a second book from the class library to share. We ask parents to share these books with their child as regularly as possible - both reading to them and encourage them to read to you.

From the start, children are encouraged to blend sounds together, to read words using phonics. The sounds are taught as clipped short sounds and the correct pronunciation can be heard on this site in Year 1 'Articulation of Sounds'. Alongside this, children are encouraged to learn by sight the words which occur most commonly in their reading books - words like 'the', 'go' and 'no'.

As children's reading becomes fluent we start to concentrate increasingly on their comprehension skills. This is supported by guided reading sessions which take place in all classes right through to Year 6. We use letters and sounds and a website called 'Phonics Play' which has useful advice and free games to play.

We continue to foster and support a love of books throughout the school. All classes have access to book corners with a range of books that the children can choose from, and they regularly read independently or with an adult, in addition to their guided reading lessons. Our library has a range of non-fiction titles which the children are also allowed to borrow.

What you can do:

- Read stories to your child regularly whatever stage of reading they have reached. Children want to read, so make sure that they know the pleasure to be had from reading books.
- Switch off the television. Choose a time when you can be cosy together to make it a special time.
- Let your child decide who is going to read. They may want you to read the book or to read the book with you or to read it to you with only a little help.
- Look at the cover. Read the title, point out the author and illustrator.
- Go from left to right with your index finger under the words so that your child learns how a book works.
- Talk about the illustrations as children may need to use them as clues to what is happening on the new page.
- Encourage children to think about what may happen next.
- Make it fun. Remember to praise children for every attempt.

Try to avoid these situations:

- Putting your child under pressure to read to you.
- Forcing your child to listen to a story when they are not interested.
- Making learning a race to keep up with other children. You could destroy their confidence and love of books.