



St. Faith and St. Martin Church of England Junior School



Helping your child with reading

*“We are a team that achieve
amazing things every day”*

Developing a Reading Community

At St. Faith and St. Martin we aim to develop a reading community where children become confident and enthusiastic readers. For us to achieve this we need to take reading beyond the classroom. We want to create a rich reading environment where reading is encouraged by everyone and everywhere.



In this booklet we will provide lots of ideas that you can use with your children at home.

Ideas for encouraging reading

Some of these are instant ideas, others will take longer to do and will be built up over a period of time. A good mix of both will be beneficial to your child.

- Spend 10 minutes a day reading together. Make it fun – choose books, magazines, brochures, catalogues, menus, recipes, posters, newspapers that you both enjoy.



- Encourage the children to make up their own characters and stories.
- Buy books as presents.
- Make a special place to keep reading books.



- Join the library, they have lots of fun and free events and have free internet access.

- When reading point out unusual words and talk about what they mean.
- Read a book to the children that they know well, miss out words and encourage the children to fill in the blanks.
- Spend time reading together talk about the pictures or make up their own stories. Bed time is the perfect time for doing this.



- Create your own book/scrapbook, include photographs of the family, trips out, children taking part in clubs out of school lessons, favourite pages from magazines, children's drawings.



- Cook together- read the recipe together.
- Read books about topics that you know your child will like such as dinosaurs, football, rugby, TV programmes etc.
- Read match reports or articles about their favourite team or sport.



- Research on the internet together. You could look at team websites, or find their favourite author or TV programme and find out more about them.
- Talk to the children about books that you enjoy reading now and books you enjoyed as a child.
- Share tape and audio versions of books that may be too difficult to read alone such as the Harry Potter Series.
- If they are confident readers they can read to younger members of the family.

- Read your book/ magazine in the same room and then discuss what each of you has read.
- Ask your child to read, at the kitchen table, while you are cooking tea.
- Read aloud with your child at the same time to build up confidence. This will also help your child hear intonation.

Brighton's Best Books

Encourage them to read one of Brighton's Best Books. These are novels selected for each Year group. They are unveiled every term.

- The children have a little challenge sheet to complete after they have read it.
- They receive a certificate, a sticker to put on their bookmark and also have their name put in the raffle box.
- The aim is to get the children reading some great novels and receive rewards while doing so.
- At the end of each term there is a raffle draw where a child wins some vouchers. The final end of year draw will have a prize of £50 book vouchers.



Reading Strategies

The next couple of pages have some handy prompts that the children can use to help them to read.

Definitions

- Phoneme The smallest unit of sound in a word, for example c..a..t.
- There are 43 phonemes in the English language, all letter sounds of the alphabet (c and k, count as one) plus: ch, sh, th, ng, ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, ear, air, ure, er, ar, or, ur, ow, oi
- Blend Putting the separate sounds (phonemes) together
- Syllables Chunks of words for example there are two in Ashton, Ash-ton and three in Elephant, el-e-phant

Questions

Questioning children about the book they are reading / read, provides us with the opportunity to discover what they have understood about it. We have included a range of questions you can ask your child. Use your judgement about which questions to and keep it enjoyable, not asking too many questions at one time.

Fiction Books

- Where does the story take place?
- When did the story take place?
- What did he / she / it look like?
- Who was he / she / it?
- Where did he / she / it live?
- Would you like to have a friend like this, Why / Why not?
- How did you feel during different parts of the story, what made you feel like this?
- Through whose eyes was the story told?
- What part of the story did you like / dislike the most, why?
- Have you read any other stories which were similar?
- Do you know any other authors who deal with the same issues as this?
- What do you think these words mean?
- Do you think this book was as good as...?
- What part of the book was the saddest, funniest, most interesting?
- Did the pictures help you to understand more about the story?
- What questions would you like to ask the author?
- Do you think all children would like this book?

Non-fiction Books

- What have you learnt from this book?
- Who do you think would find this book the most interesting?
- How would you use the index page to find something out?
- (Look at the contents page) What page would you find out about ...?
- Do you think this book could be better, why?
- Did you find the diagrams, photographs helpful?




Poetry

- Who wrote this poem?
- What is the poem about?
- What do you think the poet is trying to say?
- What did you like / dislike about the poem?
- What poetic features can you identify (rhyme, rhythm, alliteration)?
- Did the poem remind you of anything?
- Does the shape the poem makes or the sounds it makes when you read it add to the message?



The children have also been encouraged to think of their own questions about what they have read by using the Question Matrix. It is a good indicator of whether they understand what they have read.

Question Matrix



Lower > > > > > > > > > > > Higher	Is?	Did?	Can?	Would?	Will?	Might?
Lower < < < < < < < < < < < Higher	What?					
	Where?					
	When?					
	Who?					
	Why?					
	How?					

We hope that you have found this booklet useful. As always please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like further guidance.

Happy Reading!