



Supporting Reading at Home

Our Ethos: At St Patrick's, we know how important it is for teachers and parents to work together to give your child the best start. Reading together at home is one of the easiest but most important ways in which you can help your child.

As you share books you are helping improve your child's reading skills and also showing them how important and enjoyable reading is.

In terms of reading, we want children to leave St Patrick's being able to:

- Enjoy reading and see it as a pleasurable leisure activity, as well as a means of following instructions and finding things out.
- Have the reading skills necessary to read a range of text types for pleasure and for information.
- To be confident and competent readers, children need to have access to a range of reading experiences

Reading Strategies: Pause, Prompt and Praise

PAUSE to help them work out the new words using their strategies

PROMPT by using some of the techniques mentioned in this booklet

PRAISE them for trying whether they are right or wrong

It is important to use as many clues as possible to help your child when they encounter difficulty.

STRATEGIES WE USE



Talking about the book with your child at the end will help your child in their enjoyment and understanding of the book.

- Did you enjoy that book? Why? Why not?
- Who was your favourite character? Why?
- Which part did you like the best? Why?

- Was there any part you didn't like? Why?
- Would you choose this book/story again?

Which books are best?

- Phonic books that match your child's sound knowledge
- Books your child likes.
- Books suggested by your child's teacher
- Books your child chooses from a library or bookshop that they want to read
- Never be afraid of **re-reading** books

What else can your child read?

- Comics or Magazines
- Instructions or recipes
- Information books
- Newspapers
- Poems
- Recorded stories

My child is a good reader. Can I still help?

YES! Although children will often want to read in their heads when they become fluent readers and you should not insist on too much reading aloud, there are still many things that you can do.

Discuss with them what they have read

- About the character,
- About the plot,
- About the important parts of the story,
- About what they have learnt from the information,
- About their feelings as they read the story...

My child won't read, no matter what I do. How can I help?

- Try the top tip below
- **Read to** your child as much as possible
- Don't make an issue out of it
- Talk to your child's class teacher - working together will help

Top Tips for Reading at Home:

- Keep sessions short
- Keep sessions relaxed – find a comfortable place where you and your child can settle down
- Give lots of praise, progress may not always be fast – children do not always find the skill of reading and understanding easy to grasp
- Talk about the book before you begin to read – look at the front cover, and the pictures (if any) and ask your child to think about or even guess what the book may be about.
- Ask questions to check your child's understanding e.g. What might happen next? Why did something happen?
- Talk about the book afterwards – did your child enjoy it? Why? What was the best bit?
- If your child struggles over a particular word, try to remind them of the strategies they are familiar with.

- Don't give up on the bedtime story, even if your child is a good reader. The more stories and books your child hears, the more they will want to read.
- Be a good model for your children – let them see you reading – anything and everything – newspapers, magazines, catalogues, books etc. – let them know that reading is a valuable skill.
- Telling them about a book or story you liked when you were a child. You may still be able to find a copy of it on the internet!
- Making up a story or telling them about when you were a child or something that happened to you at school, remember you don't always need a book to tell a good story.
- Taking it in turns to read parts of the story.
- Telling them one thing you really enjoy about listening to them read.

Helpful questions to ask children when reading:

Children's understanding of what they have read is the key to success and enjoyment of reading. It allows children to challenge ideas, collect a wider range of vocabulary and become creative writers as they use the language they have acquired to improve their writing.

Below are some questions that you may ask your child after they have read. They are some basic question starters that will give you a starting point for the type of questions to ask your child about the book they are reading.

- Where does the story take place?
- When did the story take place?
- Can you describe the character's appearance?
- Can you predict what the story may be about the title?
- Where do the characters live?
- Who are the main characters? What happened in the story?
- Can you describe the problem in the story?
- How would you solve it?
- Can you identify words that describe the setting or character?
- What happened after....?
- Can you tell me why....?
- Look at the picture of the character, how do you think they are feeling? Why might this be?
- Describe what happened at/when.
- What do you think will happen next? What did the character say to....?

**We hope you have found this document
useful in supporting your
child whilst reading at home.**

