



Learning to read in Year R, 1 and 2

Learning to read is one of the most important skills that your child will learn. On entry into Year R children are given an individual reading book by the teacher, which is sent home every day for them to share with you at home.

As parents you have an important part to play in helping your child to learn to read.

Here are some suggestions on how you can help to make this a positive experience.

Set aside a quiet time with no distractions. Ten to fifteen minutes is usually long enough. Try not to pressurise if he or she is reluctant but make reading an enjoyable experience. If your child mispronounces a word do not interrupt immediately. Instead allow opportunity for self-correction. It is better to tell a child some unknown words to maintain the flow rather than insisting on trying to build them all up from the sounds of the letters. If your child does try to 'sound out' words, encourage the use of letter sounds rather than 'alphabet names'. Boost your child's confidence with constant praise for even the smallest achievement. Parents anxious for a child to progress can mistakenly give a child a book that is too difficult. This can have the opposite effect to the one they are wanting. Until your child has built up his or her confidence, it is better to keep to easier books. Try to read with your child on most school days. 'Little and often' is best. Try to communicate regularly in the reading record book, with positive comments and any concerns. Your child will then know that you are interested in their progress and that you value reading. Stickers, certificates and small rewards are given out to children as an incentive to read at home. Just as important as being able to read the words accurately, is being able to understand what has been read. Always talk to your child about the book; about the pictures, the characters, how they think the story will end, and their favourite part. You will then be

able to see how well they have understood and you will help them to develop good comprehension skills.

Beginner readers are heard to read their individual reading books at school as often as time allows. As the children progress with their reading and become more fluent, then staff will hear them read these individual books less frequently, but put more emphasis on reading during the lesson time. Reading is taught during many different sessions e.g. in Letters and Sounds, guided reading sessions, shared texts on the whiteboard and topic lessons. You can continue to help your child at this stage by listening to them read at home and reminding them to change their books at school the next day.