

Reading at home makes a difference

Why is reading so important?

Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures.

In fact, there's evidence to suggest that reading for pleasure is more likely to determine whether a child does well at school than their social or economic background.



What difference could I make as a parent?

The short answer is: a lot! Parents are by far the most important educators in a child's life and it's never too young for a child to start, even if you're only reading with your child for a few minutes a day.

Currently your child will bring home a reading book from school every Monday which should then be returned to school on Friday. Books will then be kept in quarantine until they are checked, changed and returned the following Monday.

Alongside this your child will also have access to books on Bug Club allocated by their teacher. Once read, these books are stored in the online library which allows them to be accessed anytime. So if your child enjoys a particular book they can read it again.

Top Tips

For Reading with Your Child at Home

As we all know, there is a lot more to reading than just reading! Here are some tips to help during reading sessions with your child at home.

- What is happening? Talk about what is happening in the pictures before you read the text. What can you see?
- Discuss the meaning of words. Use a dictionary to get your child used to exploring words for themselves.
- Discuss alternative words. For example, 'big'. Ask your child to think of another word that means the same, e.g. 'huge' (use a thesaurus).
- Make predictions. What do you think will happen next? What makes you think that?
- Start at the end of the book. What do you think has happened before this point? Why do you think that?
- Discuss feelings. How do you think the characters are feeling? What has made them feel this way?
- Where is the story set? Have you read another story with the same setting? Or with similar links.
- Discuss the problem in the story. What has happened? What went wrong?
- Discuss the resolution. How was the problem solved? Is there another way it could have been resolved?

- Fact or fiction? Is this book a story book or a non-fiction book? How do you know?
- What have you learnt? What do you know now that you didn't know before reading the book?

During Reading

Encourage children to use expression when reading, especially for the voices of different characters.

Discuss the punctuation on the page, for example, exclamation marks. Ask: what are these for? What should you do when you see an exclamation mark?

You do not always have to read the entire book every night. Focus on 2 pages and talk about the characters, setting, and plot in a lot of detail. You might want to take it in turns to read so your child can hear how you read.

Make it fun

Enjoy reading together. Give characters funny voices and engage with the pictures. Make a game out of finding words that rhyme or start with the same sound.

Make space

Have a special place or a certain time when you read together.

Bug Club

Using the online reading world

If you have access to an internet connection, your child can enjoy reading **Bug Club** books online as well as in print. Each child has a unique homepage and can log into it by following these steps:

1. Go to www.activelearnprimary.co.uk
2. Enter the login details. **School code is JK6P**
3. Your child's homepage will appear.

Reading a book online

We allocate books to your child according to their reading levels. These books will appear in the 'My Stuff' area of their personal homepages.



Bug Club

Throughout the books there are quiz questions for your child to complete. To answer a question, just click on the bug icon. Your child does not need to finish all the quiz questions in one sitting and can come back to a book later.

When your child has finished all the quiz questions in a book, he or she will earn 'ActiveLearn Coins'. By reading more books, your child will earn enough coins to 'buy' a reward in one of the many reward schemes. The answers to the quiz questions will be sent back to our teacher site so that we can see how your child is progressing. We will also be able to assign more books for your child to read if the virtual book bag is running low.

For more information and support with reading at home please see our reading area on our school website.