

## **Reading**

At Evelyn Street we believe that reading is a vital skill for all children. It is the key for all aspects of learning. We also know how essential it is for teachers and parents to work together to develop reading skills. Reading at home with your child is one of the simplest but important way in which you can help your child to read. There are 4 main skills which will aid children's reading.

**Phonics** (the sounds letters make) **vocabulary** (words) **fluency** (reading with accuracy and speed) and **comprehension** (understanding)

### **How Can You Help At Home?**

Be a **reading model**. Be enthusiastic about reading and let your child see you as a reader. Print is all around us and can be used to develop reading skills; reading does not always have to be reading books from school. Newspapers, comics, magazines, novels, information books, shopping lists, labels on packages and menus can all be used.

### **Share Books Together**

Read to your child, sharing books improves reading skills and also shows them how important reading is and how enjoyable it can be.

### **Supporting Reading at Home**

Your child will bring a range of books from school home with them, including a reading

book matched to their reading ability and a book for reading for pleasure. Your child can also read the books that you have at home as well or any of the other items mentioned. All reading is useful.

### **Ways to Help**

- Try to read on a daily basis. Encourage it as a pleasurable experience
- Praise and encourage your child as they read. Help them to apply the reading skills they have learnt at school to their reading
- Look at new words or unfamiliar words. .How can we work them out? What do they mean? (**Phonics and vocabulary**)
- Re-read favorite stories and books. Re-reading helps develop **fluency** in reading. Your child will be able to develop this skill with books they know. It will also develop **retelling** skills, as your child will recall the story or information and be able to discuss it confidently.

Discussing books and asking/answering questions with your child will help develop their understanding of the book (**Comprehension**) Questions can be asked before, during and after reading. Try not to ask too many questions, ask some to develop understanding of texts they have read.

## **Questions**

### **Before reading**

- Look at the cover of the book/Read the title...What is this book about? (Predicting)
- What does the title tell you?
- What clues are in the illustrations/picture?
- What do you already know about this story/information?
- Is this book fiction or non-fiction? How do you know?
- What do you expect to see in this book?

### **During Reading**

- What has happened so far?
- What do you think will happen next?
- How is the character feeling?
- Why do you think the character did that?
- How do you think the story will end?

### **After Reading**

- Did you enjoy that?
- How did it make you feel?
- Can you summarize the story so far?
- Have you done anything similar to the characters in this book?
- What was the author's message?
- Which was your favourite part?
- Can you retell the story?
- What new facts have you learnt from your reading?
- Would you recommend this book to a friend?

**These are a few examples of questions to ask.**

These questions are also useful if your child is able to read independently and silently, by asking questions you will develop their comprehension skills and ensure that they have understood what they have read.

