



At Barlby Primary School our aim is to support children along their way to becoming lifelong readers. The purpose of this booklet is to provide you with information which will enable you to support your child's reading at home. Learning to read takes time. Decoding the text and being able to read the words on the page is only the first step. Children need time to understand what they are reading and to enjoy books. Given the time to learn at their pace, children will develop resilience as readers and develop the lifelong skills they need to make them confident in their reading abilities. Research shows that reading is the most important home learning that you can do to support your child's achievement at school.

Book Bands

Books with colour bands that are sent home are a level lower than books your child reads with their teacher. They should be able to read these books confidently and mostly independently (at approximately 95% fluency). *Also, please note that as a school we do not subscribe to books from one scheme therefore the books on any one level can vary a little.*

Strategies to try at home

- Before reading - predict what might happen. You could introduce any words you think they will struggle with.
- Encourage your child to re-read a section to make sure it makes sense and to improve the expression.
- If they get stuck - use picture cues, encourage your child to think about what makes sense, read on and come back to it.
- Sometimes read with your child or take it in turns to read a page.
- Draw your child's attention to repeated words – encourage them to read them by sight, instead of sounding out.

Reluctant readers

Please talk to your child's teachers if this is an issue. Your child can improve their reading skills whatever they read. Perhaps they are more interested in non-fiction or comics? Don't let it turn into a battle – do ask for support.

We are unable to read in English – how can we help our child?

Reading in any language will help your child's understanding in English. There are also courses available locally to develop parent's own skills.

I think my child is behind with their reading

Do communicate with your child's teacher if you are worried. Remember that all children are individuals and learn at their own pace. Your child may need practise and praise. Barlby provides extra support for children with particular difficulties or those who need an extra 'boost'.

How often do I need to listen to my child read?

If your child is not yet a fully fluent reader, it is important that you hear them read regularly - little and often is best, e.g. 20 minutes, three times a week. If your child is a fluent reader then it is more relevant to talk to them about the books they read. A bedtime story read by you or together is also a valuable reading activity at home and an opportunity to model expression and to discuss the book together.

Supporting early reading at home

Questions to ask before reading:

- Can you point to the title?
- What do you think this story might be about?
- What does the blurb tell us? (the writing on the back of the book)

During the reading of the book:

- What is happening in the pictures?
- What has happened so far?
- What might happen next?
- What might the character do next?
- How could you describe them?

At the end of the book:

- Did you like this book? Why?
- What was your favourite part and why?
- What was the most exciting/interesting part of the book?

Supporting an independent reader at home

Independent readers still need your support to develop as readers. Some ways to support independent readers at home:

- Discuss books with your child – try reading the same book so you can talk about it.
- Ask your child to prepare a section to read aloud to you.
- Encourage your child to use a dictionary/thesaurus if they come across new words

Foster a love of reading:

- Balance reading with screen time
- Read stories, poems and other texts aloud to your child.
- Let your child see you reading for purpose and pleasure.
- Visit the library / bookshops to choose their own books.
- Encourage reading with siblings, older and younger.
- Use stories on CDs / audio books.
- Follow your child's interests – football, history, animals...
- Give reading a purpose - TV guide, recipes, game instructions, signs, catalogues...

Useful Websites

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/>

www.phonicsplay.co.uk ideas for phonics activities

www.readingforlife.org.uk Advice for parents and activities for children

www.crickweb.co.uk literacy activities

If you have further questions on supporting your child with reading then you are welcome to contact me or your class teacher. If there is enough interest we could offer a meeting about reading on Zoom. To register your interest please message me at the email address below.

Thank you for your support,

Rachael Stone

Assistant Headteacher

rachael.stone@barlby.rbkc.sch.uk

