



Helping your child read at home

Background information

At St Helen's we know that all children benefit enormously by reading to and with other adults. All of us can help children gain the enjoyment that comes from being a confident reader with the skills needed to read with increasing fluency, precision and complexity.

During the school, your child's teachers will choose reading that is accessible, often with some support or guidance. Teachers are assessing skills and progress in reading and teaching the skills required by the child so they can progress.

When you listen to your child read, read to your child and engage with positivity and active engagement you have the ability to make a significant difference to your child's reading. Reading skills transform attitudes, participation, joy, exploration – reading well helps your child learn.

About this guide to reading at home

We have got together and tried to put together support and guidance for you. This is divided into year groups or key stages to make it as easy as possible to work alongside your child.

Each section has: an introduction giving an overview of the year group; some reading skills that we hope will be accessible for you and your child outside of the school day; ideas on comments that you can write in the home-school reading record.

In addition, each class will share with you how reading is taught in your child's class and any procedural information that you need to know. For example, how reading books are changed.

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

We think that the 'Top Tips for the Reading Helper' in your child's home-school read record offers great advice. We want to highlight Top Tip:

- #1 Aim to do little and often
- #5 Encourage and discuss pictures
- #6 Make a note of tricky or hard words in the home-school record
- #8 Read some pages to your child to show them how to be fluent
- #9 Read a wide range of poems and stories

Reception Class

Mrs Boffin and Miss Pearce teach reading through the teaching an application of phonics. Within the home-school reading record there is some useful guidance for parents.

At the start of the school year, Reception teachers run an introductory parent information session while throughout the year, parents are reminded about the importance of reading every day at home.

Reading skills that we the children to practise at home.

- I can recognise my high frequency words
- I can talk about the illustrations
- I can talk about the story using words and illustrations to help
- I can hear and say the initial sounds in words
- I can find familiar words when reading

Year 1

Miss Kitching teaches reading skills during a reading lesson. Reading skills are also used and refined during English lessons, and as part of learning the wider curriculum.

Reading skills that we the children to practise at home.

- I can recognise the 50 high frequency words
- I can use punctuation to help my reading
- I can search for information that helps me read new words
- I can talk about the purpose of fiction (story) and non-fiction (factual)
- I can recall and retell what has been read

Year 2

Miss Hurd teaches reading skills during a reading lesson. Reading skills are also used and refined during English lessons, and as part of learning the wider curriculum.

- I can use punctuation and text layout to read with expression and accuracy
- I can find meaning from the text while reading without using the illustrations
- I can break down spoken and written words into syllables
- I can sound and blend digraphs
- I notice common prefixes and read common suffixes
- I know the majority of high frequency words by sight
- I look through a variety of texts with growing independence
- I can predict content, layout and story development

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

Here are some ideas for supportive comments that you can give your child. Write them in their home-school reading record so they can share their success.

- You read with fluency
- You used your phonics to help read some unfamiliar words
- You could re-tell the story
- You explained the information you had read
- You could tell me about the main characters
- You could tell me the main points from the story/information
- You are able to predict what may happen next

You can also comment on any of the reading skills that noted for your child's year groups. For example:

- You could talk about the story using words and illustrations to help (YR)
- You used punctuation to help your reading (Y1)
- You read with great expression (Y2)

You can help your child make progress in their reading by complementing a positive comment with something that they can work on next. We have given you some ideas.

- Learn these words _____ they all have the _____ sound
- Reread the story/information to help your recall
- Read to an adult and tell them what you have found out about _____

Lower Key Stage 2

Year 3

We think that the 'Top Tips for the Reading Helper' in your child's home-school read record offers great advice. We want to highlight Top Tip:

- #2 Stimulate interest in a new book through book talk
- #5 Decode using phonics skills
- #6 Help 'work out' tricky or hard words
- #8 Read some pages to your child to show them how to be fluent
- #9 Read a wide range of poems and stories

Year 4

We think that the 'Top Tips for the Reading Helper' in your child's home-school read record offers great advice. We want to highlight Top Tip:

- #1 Use the comments space
- #2 Make a note of tricky or hard words in the home-school record
- #4 Try strategies to help when struggling
- #5 Know the difference between fact and opinion
- #6 Check understanding of what has been read

Lower Key Stage 2

Here are some ideas for supportive comments that you can give your child. Write them in their home-school reading record so they can share their success.

- You read out loud with fluency and using punctuation to help
- You can read silently to yourself before sharing what you have read
- You can read for a sustained period and return easily after a break
- You can search for, and find information in a text
- You could tell me what words mean using the context to help
- You came up with great ways to remember how to spell unfamiliar words
- You could discuss and explain your understanding of what you have read

You can also comment on any of the reading skills that are noted for your child's year groups. For example:

- You could read clearly and fluently, really emphasising the questions
- You scanned for the information with speed and accuracy
- You helped me understand what the author means by _____ in this story

You can help your child make progress in their reading by complementing a positive comment with something that they can work on next. We have given you some ideas.

- Find the meaning of the word words _____. Is there an alternative?
- Reread the page _____ and tell me why the character was excited
- Tell (another adult) what you have found out about _____

Upper Key Stage 2

Year 5 and Year 6

We think that the 'Top Tips for the Reading Helper' in your child's home-school read record offers great advice. We want to highlight Top Tip:

- #1 Use the comments space
- #2 Make a note of tricky or hard words in the home-school record
- #4 Try strategies to help when struggling
- #5 Know the difference between fact and opinion
- #6 Check understanding of what has been read

Upper Key Stage 2

The ideas in the Lower Key Stage 2 section are relevant and useful. Here are some additional ideas for supportive comments that you can give your child. Write them in their home-school reading record so they can share their success.

- You know the precise meaning of the word _____
- You used the punctuation to express the characters dialogue
- You could re-tell the narrative of the poem clearly
- You explained the information you read; also used what you already know
- You had really insightful opinions about _____
- You could tell me the writer's viewpoint
- You had a viewpoint that what similar/different from the writer

You can also comment on any of the reading skills that noted for your child's year groups. For example:

- You could talk precisely about the meaning of _____
- You used speech marks to help your reading as a character
- You explained the two opinions in this information clearly

You can help your child make progress in their reading by complementing a positive comment with something that they can work on next. We have given you some ideas.

- Learn the precise meaning of _____ as it is used in the text
- Find out other information about _____
- Research the author to find out why they write about this issue
- Create two contrasting voices to emphasis the difference in character