

INTRODUCTION

First, the serious bit.

Research shows that reading for pleasure is the single most important indicator of a child's future success (OECD 2002).

Higher reading levels are associated with stronger academic outcomes, better employment prospects, healthier lifestyles and even life expectancy.

It makes sense then, that we do everything we can in school and as parents to foster a life-long love of reading.

In school, our curriculum is based on books that are specially chosen to be engaging, entertaining and thought provoking. Our teachers are skilled in sharing stories, talking about books and promoting fiction and non-fiction that will appeal to our pupil's interests and curiosity. We try to inspire a reading culture, not just for special events like Roald Dahl Day or World book Day, but every day.

There is so much that you can do at home to support and encourage your child to read for pleasure:

1. Find books about things your child is really interested in...Star Wars, unicorns, music, sport. Many young readers prefer books about 'real stuff'. The first book my nephew really loved was the Guinness Book of records!

2. Get them hooked on series books...children love to collect things so why not books!
3. Use audio books as a way in to reading independently. My niece listened to several Horrid Henry books and then asked for her own copies of the stories.
4. Favourite TV shows or films often have books that go with them.
5. Look out for recommendations on websites like The Book Trust, Lovereading4kids and Waterstones.
6. Get recommendations from class mates (this is one of the very best ways).
7. Get hold of a copy of a book you know your child has enjoyed listening their teacher read in class.
8. Use the local library. Book displays of new titles are enticing and librarians have a wealth of knowledge to share.
9. Tell them about a book you loved as a child, they may like to read your old copy (even if it is a bit bashed about!)
10. Encourage reading in all its formats...comics, ebooks, recipes, hobby magazines, joke books.



THE POWER OF THE BEDTIME STORY

Don't underestimate the humble bedtime story. That special time you are snuggled up sharing a story, helps children see that books are a source of comfort, adventure, excitement, bellylaughs and conversation.

Do not think you have to stop reading to your child at bedtime as they get older...you don't. This way they can enjoy books that they would not be able to read for themselves and this is the way many children first encounter the Harry Potter books or the stories of Philip Pullman and CS Lewis.

THE POWER OF YOU!

Show your child that you enjoy reading. If you haven't read for pleasure for a while, give it a go...go back to an old favourite or look out for something new next time you are in the book aisle at the supermarket or passing a bookshop.

THE POWER OF THE TEACHER

Teachers know books that will appeal to their classes and choose books carefully both to read aloud in class and to use as a focus for lessons. They will always be happy to share ideas about books that may suit your child.