

# Speenhamland School

## Reading Parent Guide



**WE ASPIRE**

**WE CHALLENGE**

**WE SUPPORT**



At Speenhamland School, we believe very strongly in the importance and value of reading. We want our pupils to develop a love of reading and allow themselves to be immersed in a range of authors and books.

We recognise the importance of early reading – it is the foundations for unlocking the curriculum. Since September, we have introduced a new phonics scheme - Rising Stars Rocket Phonics – which focuses equally on blending for reading and segmenting for writing and spelling. Phonics lessons at Speenhamland are engaging – they encompass flashcards, write-in booklets, reading books and E-Books, interactive games and quizzes. An early love of reading is developed through captivating illustrated stories and rich, fully-decodable fiction and non-fiction which embeds the phonics in a context.

To fully support our pupils and ensure they have the strongest start to reading, we ask our parents to get actively involved in the reading process. This leaflet provides you with a useful overview of how you can best support your child as they develop those early reading skills.

## READING AT HOME - AN INTRODUCTION:

To give your child the best starting point, we encourage all our children to **read every night at home with an adult**. Reading little and often is far more effective than reading for a long period once or twice a week. All reading at home should be recorded on the Go Read app so teachers have a record of your child's reading. If parents struggle to access the app, please make contact with the class teacher who can talk you through the process with your device. Pupils will receive incentives, such as Dragon Eggs, for reading regularly at home.

Your child will bring home **two books for reading**. One is a phonics book for your child to read to you. It has been carefully chosen and matched to their learning in class, so that they can decode all the words. The other book, from our school library, has words your child may not be able to read yet. It is for you to read to your child and talk about together. This will help to develop that early curiosity and love of reading.

## PHONICS BOOKS:

Phonics books are matched to the sounds your child has already been taught in school. These books will provide your child with the opportunity to consolidate their learning as well as celebrate what they can do. The aim is for your child to be able to read the book with 95% accuracy and good fluency. For this reason, the **phonics book will be changed weekly**.

Over the course of the week, children should read their phonics book a minimum of 3 times.

**FIRST READ:** decode and practise applying the phonics knowledge.

**SECOND READ:** develop fluency and speed of reading.

**THIRD READ:** develop comprehension and understanding of the content.

## LIBRARY BOOKS:

Library books develop reading pleasure and provide an opportunity to share and enjoy a book together.

## HOW TO READ A STORY TO YOUR CHILD:

If you can find the time beforehand, read the library book to yourself first, so you can think about how you're going to read it to your child.



## ON THE FIRST READING:

- Make reading aloud feel like a treat. Make it a special quiet time and cuddle-up so you can both see the book.
- Show curiosity about what you're going to read: 'This book looks interesting. It's about an angry child. I wonder how angry he gets...'
- Read through the whole story the first time without stopping too much. Let the story weave its own magic.
- Read with enjoyment. If you're not enjoying it, your child won't.
- Read favourite stories over and over again.

## ON LATER READINGS:

- Let your child pause, think about and comment on the pictures.
- If you think your child did not understand something, try to explain: 'Oh! I think what's happening here is that...'
- Chat about the story and pictures: 'I wonder why she did that?'; 'Oh no, I hope she's not going to...'; 'I wouldn't have done that, would you?'
- Link the stories to your own family experiences: 'This reminds me of when ...'
- Link stories to others that your child knows: 'Ah! Do you remember the dragon in ... ? Do you remember what happened to him?'
- Encourage your child to join in with the bits they know.
- Avoid asking questions to test what your child remembers.
- Avoid telling children that reading stories is good for them.



## OTHER TOP TIPS FOR READING AT HOME:

- **Encourage your child to read regularly** - Reading helps your child's wellbeing, develops imagination and has educational benefits too. Just a few minutes a day can have a big impact on children of all ages.
- **Read aloud regularly** - Try to read to your child every day. It's a special time to snuggle up and enjoy a story. Stories matter and children love re-reading them and poring over the pictures. Try adding funny voices to bring characters to life.
- **Encourage reading choice** - Give children lots of opportunities to read different things in their own time - it doesn't just have to be books. There's fiction, non-fiction, poetry, comics, magazines, recipes and much more. Try leaving interesting reading material in different places around the home and see who picks it up.
- **Read together** - Choose a favourite time to read together as a family and enjoy it. This might be everyone reading the same book together, reading different things at the same time, or getting your children to read to each other. This time spent reading together can be relaxing for all.
- **Create a comfortable environment** - Make a calm, comfortable place for your family to relax and read independently or together.
- **Make use of your local library** - Visit your local library when you're able to and explore all sorts of reading ideas. Local libraries also offer brilliant online materials, including audiobooks and E-books to borrow.

- **Talk about books** - This is a great way to make connections, develop understanding and make reading even more enjoyable. Start by discussing the front cover and talking about what it reveals and suggests the book could be about. Then talk about what you've been reading and share ideas. You could discuss something that happened that surprised you, or something new that you found out. You could talk about how the book makes you feel and whether it reminds you of anything.
- **Bring reading to life** - You could try cooking a recipe you've read together. Would you recommend it to a friend? Alternatively, play a game where you pretend to be the characters in a book, or discuss an interesting article you've read.
- **Make reading active** - Play games that involve making connections between pictures, objects and words, such as reading about an object and finding similar things in your home. You could organise treasure hunts related to what you're reading. Try creating your child's very own book by using photos from your day and adding captions.
- **Engage your child in reading in a way that suits them** - You know your child best and you'll know the best times for your child to read. If they have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) then short, creative activities may be the way to get them most interested. If English is an additional language, encourage reading in a child's first language, as well as in English. What matters most is that they enjoy it.



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