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Be the B.E.S.T. to Achieve Success For All
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Reading at Home



Dear Parents/Carer,

Often, parents ask us how they can help their child at home and as a school we know that the single most important thing you can do with your child to make a difference is to read aloud with your child every day – 10 minutes is all it takes! It doesn't matter whether those 10 minutes are in the morning, straight after school or at bedtime but it is important to establish a routine and find a routine that works for you and your family.

We know that many of you will be thinking, 'Isn't it the school's job to teach reading? Yes it is, but you have an important role to play too! Consider the maths. There are 30 children in a class, so if your child's teacher reads with each child for 10 minutes, that adds up to 300 minutes or 5 hours for a whole class. That's a full day of teaching with each child only receiving 10 minutes of individual tuition! At Reignhead, we already rely heavily on our team of Reading Volunteers and also allocate time for each of our Teaching Assistants to do one-to-one reading with children, especially at the early stages of reading, really do need to be reading every single day and the best place to do that is at home.

What if your child doesn't like reading? Any teacher will tell you that story time at the end of the day is always a wonderful time and we have never yet met a child who doesn't like listening to a story. If your child doesn't want to read aloud to you, then why not try reading to them instead or taking turns to read?

It's also worth considering that, in our experience, children tend not to enjoy things they're finding difficult. This means that the best way to get children enjoying reading is to make sure they have plenty of practice so that they become fluent as quickly as possible. By the end of Year 2, children are expected to read 90 words per minute, so if your Key Stage 2 child is reading more slowly than this, practice is what they need!

Some parents/carers say that they don't know what to say to their child when they're reading. Remember, that we will be teaching your child to read in school – your role as the parent/carers is to give praise, encourage a love of books and give plenty of opportunities to practice. Some useful phrases to use are: 'I like the way you took a big breath at that full stop.' 'I like how you changed your voice to be the voice of the character in the story'. 'I noticed that you reread the bit that did not make sense.' Remember also to encourage your child to read independently. A bedside light is one of the best enticements for your child to read before going to sleep. After the 10 minutes of reading with you, the child can elect to continue reading independently.



Once your child can read well independently, it's important for them to pick and choose what they read. They are entitled to read some books and reject others. Good readers make choices. If you're looking for some new books for your child to enjoy at home, then a good starting point is the Reignhead Reading Spine. We would also encourage you to browse the Book Trust website (www.booktrust.org.uk) which recommends some amazing books. Finally, The Book People (www.thebookpeople.co.uk) is used by a number of Reignhead parents and sells some very popular books at cheap prices – it's well worth a look, especially in time for Christmas!

In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns about your child's reading then please speak to your child's class teacher who will be happy to give you some tips or advice specific to your child.

Kind regards,

Reignhead Staff