



Bunbury Aldersey CE Primary School

'A Caring Christian Family Where We Grow Together'



Supporting Reading at Home

What is reading?

Reading feeds pupils' imagination and opens up a treasure-house of wonder and joy for curious young minds. It is our aim that, by the end of their primary education, all pupils are able to read fluently and with confidence.

Skilled word reading involves both the speedy decoding of unfamiliar printed words and the speedy recognition of familiar printed words. Underpinning both is the understanding that the letters on the page represent the sounds in spoken words.

Good comprehension draws from linguistic knowledge (in particular of vocabulary and grammar) and on knowledge of the world. Comprehension skills develop through pupils' experience of high-quality discussion, as well as from reading and discussing a range of engaging stories, poems and non-fiction.

If a child cannot read 5% of the words in a text the meaning becomes lost.

"Reading for pleasure is the single biggest factor in success later in life, outside of an education. Study after study has shown that those children who read for pleasure are the ones who are most likely to fulfil their ambitions. If your child reads, they will succeed – it's that simple."

Bali Rai

We aim to ensure that all pupils:

- read easily, fluently and with good understanding
- develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information
- acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language
- appreciate our rich and varied literary heritage
- write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences modelled in their reading.
- use discussion in order to learn; they should be able to elaborate and explain clearly their understanding and ideas, supported with evidence from the text
- are competent in the skills of speaking and listening, asking and responding to questions and participating in discussions, demonstrating understanding of what they have read



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What can you do to support your child's reading at home?

- Listen to your child read aloud, regardless of their age/book band - this helps develop reading fluency and expression.
- Share books with your child - this models good reading habits and helps foster a love of books and reading.
- Discuss books with your child - the attached questions are intended to support these discussions and help to develop your child's comprehension skills.

Writing in the Reading Record

A brief comment in your child's Reading Record is extremely helpful for teachers to monitor your child's progress. Below is a list of things you could comment on.

- How enthusiastic is your child about the choice of book?
- Can your child remember the story so far?
- Is your child reading using only the pictures for clues?
- Does your child understand that the words they are reading mean something?
- Is your child confident to attempt new words?
- What reading strategies is your child using, e.g. sounds, use of the picture, use of the context?
- Can they follow the text without using a finger or marker?
- Is there a pattern to the mistakes your child is making, e.g. words ending in "ed" or starting in "sh"?
- Do they recognise mistakes and self-correct?
- Is your child recognising many key words?
- Is your child aware of punctuation?
- Is your child reading with expression?
- How long are they able to sustain reading?

In KS1 we ask that you record a brief comment in the Reading Record each time your child reads at home. In KS2, your child should take more ownership over recording the books they read and how they have enjoyed them so one comment a week from an adult is enough.



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Questions to support your child's reading at home

Questions you could ask before you read

- Can you look at the title/pictures and predict what you think will happen in this book?
- What makes you think that?
- What characters do you think might be in our story?
- Do you think there will be a problem in this story? Why or why not?
- What genre do you think this is?

Questions you could ask during the reading

- What do you think will happen next?
- What can you tell me about the story so far?
- What happened after _____?
- Can you predict how the story will end?
- Why do you think the character did _____?
- What would you have done if you were the character?
- How would you have felt if you were the character?
- As I read _____, it made me picture _____ in my head. What pictures do you see in your head?
- What does _____ mean?
- Can you find a sentence that makes you want to read on?
- Can you put what you've just read in your own words?
- Why has the author set out the text like this?

Questions you could ask after reading

- Can you remember the title?
- In your opinion, was it a good title for this book? Why or why not?
- Were your predictions about the story correct?
- If there was a problem, did it get solved?
- Why do you think the author wrote this book?
- What is the most important point the author is trying to make in their writing?
- What was your favourite part of the story? Why?
- If you could change one thing in the story, what would it be?
- Can you retell the story in order?
- If you were _____, how would you have felt?
- Is there a character in the story like you? How are you alike?
- Why did you like/dislike this book?
- If you wrote a sequel, what would happen?
- Do you know any other stories like this one?
- Would you like to read another book by this author? Why/why not?



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Useful websites:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/reading-tips/how-to-read-with-your-child/>

<https://www.readingrockets.org/article/reading-your-child>

<http://wordsforlife.literacytrust.org.uk/>

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/welcome-back/for-home/reading-owl/reading>

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/freeIndex.htm>

The link below takes you to our recommended reading lists:

<http://bunburyaldersey.cheshire.sch.uk/page/writing/19577>



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Parent Voice

Your views are important to us. If you have any comments or questions regarding supporting your child's reading, please fill in your responses below and return to school, either via email or paper copy.

Does your child enjoy reading? Why/why not?

Do you have any further questions around supporting your child's reading at home?

Is there anything else you would like from school to support you?

Any further comments: