

Reading Guidance for Parents

At Hamsey Green Primary School we consider reading to be of great importance and the key to all other aspects of learning as it impacts on everything a child does. Parents, have an incredibly important role in developing a love of reading and building on key reading skills. This process begins when your child brings home their first books in Reception and continues throughout their schooling. When children are able to read quite confidently and independently, or even spending more time reading quietly to themselves, this is where parents can play a key role in the development of comprehension skills - the understanding and appreciation of what is being read.

We ask that you encourage your child to read for about fifteen minutes every night, and then discuss what the text is about.

You can help your child by:

- Encouraging your child to read at home.
- Listening whilst your child reads.
- Keeping reading sessions short and light-hearted.
- Reading a book aloud at the same time as your child, modelling expression and fluency.
- Sharing books, reading sections each, especially if your child wants to tackle a more difficult text.
- Recapping any words that your child found difficult.
- Giving your child lots of praise.
- Discussing what has been read. You may find the questions in this leaflet useful.

Reading Aloud to Your Child

Research has shown that reading aloud to children of all ages helps them to develop their writing skills. This is because it helps pupils to develop their knowledge of language and story structure. It also provides them with a greater range of ideas which they can use in their own writing, and gives them access to texts that may be too complex for them to read alone. At Hamsey Green, we regularly read books aloud to pupils of all ages, and we would encourage parents to continue enjoying the pleasure of sharing bedtime stories (or at any other time) even after their child has become an independent reader.

We hope this leaflet will help you to support your child with reading at home. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher if you would like more specific guidance about supporting your own child.

Using the questions provided

As your child becomes more confident with reading, they should be encouraged to spend time reading quietly and independently. However, it is also important that your child has the opportunity to discuss what they have read to demonstrate their understanding and to enable them to think more carefully about the text. In this leaflet we have included a range of questions which can be used and adapted when discussing texts with your child. Please use your own judgement when choosing questions, bearing in mind the comments about keeping reading sessions light and enjoyable, and the age/ reading ability of your child.

Fiction Books

Questions about characters

- What does look like? Use parts of the story to explain how you know this.
- What sort of things does get up to?
- Why do you think that behaves in the way that he/she does?
- What have you learned about? Where did you get this from?
- Would you like to have as a friend? Why/why not?
- How did feel at the beginning/middle/end of the story? How do you know this?
- Do you feel that you are in any way similar to? In what way?

Do you think that changed in any way during the story? How and why did these changes happen?

Why do you think said "....."?

Questions about settings

- * Where and when did the main events take place?
- * What effect does the setting have on the story?
- * Does the timing of these events have an effect on the story?
- * Why do you think the author chose the settings that he/she has?
- * Do you think that the settings are well described? Why?
- * Can you select some good description and say why you think it is so effective?

General questions

- * Does what you have read in your book today make you want to carry on reading? Why/why not?
 - * What main events have taken place in your book?
 - * What caused these events to happen?
 - * What was the result of these events?
 - * What do you think may happen next?
 - * What part of the story do you think is the funniest/saddest/most interesting?
 - * How do you think the story will end?
 - * Why do you think the book is called?
 - * Did anything in the book make you think about something that once happened to you?
 - * Do you think that the pictures help you to understand the book better?
 - * Do the pictures make the book more enjoyable? How?
 - * What questions would you like to ask the author?
 - * Would you recommend this book to other children?
 - * Would it appeal to all children? What sort of children do you think would like it?
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Non-fiction Books

What have you learnt from your reading today?

Who do you think would find this book most interesting and useful?

How is the information arranged on each page?

How does the way that the information is set out help you to understand it?

Discuss the use of the contents page, glossary and index.

Poetry

What is the poem about?

What pictures did it make you think of as you read the poem?

What is it about the poem that you liked?

How do you think the poet is feeling about what they are writing about?

What 'poetic features' can you identify? (e.g. rhyme, rhythm, alliteration, onomatopoeic words, similes, metaphors or personification)

Did the poem remind you of anything else that you have read?

Does the shape the poem makes on the page, or the sounds it makes when you read it, add to the message?

Why do you think that part is repeated?