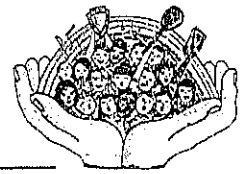




Yenton Primary School



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22nd March 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

READING RECORDS AND READING AT HOME

At Yenton, we want to do everything we can to help your child read and write. As a school it is our aim to foster and develop a love of reading in all of our children, both in school and at home. We believe that reading is at the core of all learning and that children who read regularly are at a significant advantage in terms of future learning and long-term achievement.

As parents/carers, you can make the biggest difference to your child's success as a reader by encouraging your child to read as much and as widely as possible at home. Parents who read regularly with their children make greater progress than their peers. The effect of parents reading with their children at primary school lasts throughout a child's school years and the effect can still be seen at the age of fifteen. A short daily reading session at home really supports your child and can really make a difference to a child's progress.

Take turns to read

Often, you'll want to listen to your child read aloud. Reading to an adult is the most important thing children in the early stages of learning to read can do to develop their reading. But don't stop reading aloud to them as they get older. It's a great way of building their understanding, showing them what expressive reading sounds like and letting them enjoy a story. By both reading and listening, your child gets the best of both worlds, learning more than if they only read aloud to you or listened to you. If you read to them, they also get to enjoy stories that might be too difficult for them to read on their own but which they can understand perfectly if you do the actual reading.

Pay attention to the language

When reading, we can often take children's understanding of words or phrases for granted. By checking they're following, explaining the meaning or even looking up unfamiliar words and phrases together, you can expand your child's vocabulary and support them to make wider sense of the story. Words and phrases are the bricks that writers use to build a story, and making sense of them is the key to unlocking the meaning of a book.

Talk about the book

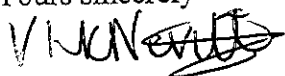
Asking your child questions or asking for their opinion can be an important way of helping them to think about what they're reading. As a rule, open questions that begin with 'how' and 'why' tend to be more engaging rather than simple recall questions ('How do you think Mole is feeling on this page? Why?' might work better than 'What is Mole afraid?'). If you can, try to get your child to refer back to the text and pictures to tell you how they know the answer ('How do you know he's afraid?'). Above all it's important to ask questions and talk about what you're reading because you are genuinely interested in what your child thinks, rather than just to check they can find the right answer. You might also ask questions and encourage your child to make links between the book you're reading and other books they've read or stories that they know. Expressing preferences about what they read is an important step towards becoming a mature reader.

Reading Records

Reading Records are sent home for children and family members to record your reading experiences. We really hope that you can support us by listening to your child read and completing a short entry in the record book as often as possible. Both you and child can make comments, and this will then be checked by a teacher or teaching assistant in school every week. Your comments can be a record of what chapters or pages you have read, as well as including how you felt your child read and the questions you asked as they were reading.

Attached below are some examples of questions that you could ask. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact myself or your child's class teacher.

Yours sincerely



Miss V. Nevitt
English Leader

Fiction Questions

How do you know this is a fiction text?

Where does the story take place?

When did the story take place?

What does the character look like?

What happened in the story?

Explain what happened in a specific part of the story.

If you were going to interview the characters/author what would you ask?

Who was the storyteller? How do you know?

Which is your favourite part? Why?

Predict what you think will happen next.

Who would you like to meet in the story? Why?

Were you surprised by the ending?

Why do you think authors use shorter sentences?

Can you find any examples of effective description?

What makes this a successful story?

What did the story make you think of?

How would you feel in the same situation?

Non-Fiction Questions

What is the text about?

Can you find any features of the text type?

What is on the cover of the book?

What does this tell you about the content inside?

Which parts of the book could help you find the information you need?

When would you use the index page in the book?

Do you think the author of the book is an 'expert' about the topic of the book? Why/why not?

What is the purpose of the pictures?

How does the layout help the reader?

Can you find an example of a page you think has an interesting layout?

Why did you choose it?

Why do we need a glossary in a text?

How could the information be presented better?

Why has the writer written this text?

Have you found any of the illustrations, diagrams or pictures useful? Why/why not? Try to explain fully.

Can you think of another text that is similar to this one? What are the similarities and differences between them?