

READING

An information pamphlet for parents

The governors and staff at William de Yaxley Junior School hope that these notes, which attempt to summarise our guide-lines for reading in school, will be useful to you in supporting your child's learning.

Even though schools teach children how to read, parents still have an important role to play. Research shows that parents who get involved in their child's education make a big difference to how well their children do. Parents can help their child with reading by showing how important it is and by finding ways to help their children enjoy reading. Studies show that children who enjoy reading do much better at school. Another study also found that children who were reading to their parents improved their reading skills a great deal, even if the parents could not read English or read at all in any language.

Reading is far more than just being able to read words from a page. To be a competent, able reader one must be able to react with the text and understand what it is saying to us.

Instant ideas for improving a child's reading – suggestions from parents

- Spend 10 minutes a day reading together. Make it fun – choose books you both enjoy. Talk about the pictures and characters and make up your own stories.
- Buy books as presents.
- Make a special place to keep reading books from school, books borrowed from the library and books bought as presents. It will show how important reading is to you.
- Look at brochures and catalogues together.
- Look at newspapers together and point out more unusual words.
- Make a word box and put in new words your child has learnt.
- Let your child see you reading and talk about what you like and don't like reading.

Reading independently and silently

What you can do to help

- Ask your son/daughter to tell you the title and author of the book.
- Show your interest by asking for a summary of the book so far.
- Enquire which characters are in the story and what their personalities are like.
- Discuss any books (fiction or non-fiction) or magazines that you are using/reading yourself.

Reading aloud to someone

What you can do to help:

1. Find 5 – 10 minutes each day to sit quietly together and share a book with your child.
2. Share the reading – in turns take a page or a paragraph each.
3. If your child does not recognise a word you have a choice:-

If the word can be sounded out easily,
point to the letters and sound them out;

If the word can be guessed because of the meaning,
encourage your child to read on and look for clues, then
return to the unknown word;

Tell your child the word so that he/she can keep reading
with no interruption.
4. Do not get cross if your child makes mistakes or forgets words they have already read correctly. Just offer praise and encouragement all the time; they will then enjoy reading. Reading should never be a fraught process. If one or both of you are not in the mood for sharing a book it is better to leave it until another time.
5. Talk about the story and the characters in it. What do you think will happen next?

Children's reading between 7 and 11

Don't forget that older children enjoy being read to. You could also read your own childhood favourites together (although don't be offended if they don't enjoy them as much as you - everyone has a different reading personality!)

It is important to let children choose what they want to read – after all adults don't like to be told what they can or cannot read.

Don't forget magazines, comics, newspapers and non-fiction (factual) books. Research shows that as long as children choose to read for pleasure their education benefits.

Writing follows on from drawing and reading. Older children's writing improves the more they read. It is what is often known as a 'virtuous circle', (the opposite of a vicious circle) where the more you read, the better you get at writing! Parents can help this to happen by encouraging children to follow their reading interests at home and by encouraging writing for pleasure as well.

Yaxley Library

Yaxley Library costs nothing to join and books can be borrowed for free. The librarians will also offer help and advice on choosing a books. You can also order particular books which you cannot find on the shelves. You can also use the internet for free as well. One particularly good website which will help you in choosing books for your child is www.booktrusted.co.uk

Yaxley Library opening times are:

Monday	2.30 - 7.00
Tuesday	9.30 - 1.00 and 2.00 - 5.00
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	9.30 - 1.00 and 2.00 - 5.00
Friday	9.30 - 1.00 and 2.00 - 5.00
Saturday	9.30 - 12.30