



Reading at The John Wesley CEM Primary School

Reading is a skill for life

As new readers, your children are at the beginning of an exciting journey. Spending time, each day, sharing a book with your child is an incredibly important way in which you can help them with this.

Why is reading important?

Research shows that a child who reads for pleasure will do better in school, even in subjects like maths. Reading books together is a great way to bond, talk about the day and make lasting memories.

Setting aside ten minutes a day to focus just on a reading together makes that time special and something you both really look forward to.

So, turn off the TV, phone and computer and take your time with each page.



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Initially when your child starts school, we will give them a picture book to share with you. We will then begin to teach them the letter sounds and skills they will need to become fluent readers.

At The John Wesley CEM Primary School, we teach reading through phonics. This is how the children learn letter sounds. (phonemes).

We use Supersonic Phonic Friends (Systematic synthetic phonics) programme and we introduce a selection of sounds per week. We teach what the phoneme looks like and how to write them alongside using Cued Articulation actions. For more information see the phonics booklet.

SUPERSONIC
Phonic Friends

We teach the children to *segment words* into phonemes eg pin = p—i—n and by *blending phonemes* to read words eg t—a—p = tap. We also teach tricky words (words which cannot be sounded out) such as 'the', 'no', 'go'.

How do I listen to my child read?

Please take time to read with your child at home. This should be a fun activity and choose time when your child is most responsive (i.e. not immediately before bedtime or during their favourite TV programme!)

Find a quiet place to curl up with a book! This involves taking time out of often busy schedules. Make sure there are no distractions and that the TV is off. Generally speaking, children should read with an adult. This teaches children that reading is valued and important. If evenings are not convenient, try reading first thing in a morning instead.

Regular reading practise is the key to success!

What books will my child take home after they start school?

Once the children have started school and start phonics they will then be provided with a reading book from the Big Cat reading scheme. This reading scheme has been chosen to complement Supersonic Phonics Friends (Systematic synthetic phonics) that we use in school.



This reading scheme is a phonetically decodable scheme which is recommended as the prime methods of teaching early reading skills. It is really important that they continue to practise their phonic skills with the Big Cat books which links to the daily phonics lessons and their weekly spellings.

When the children become confident and fluent readers, in Year 2, they will then be moved onto an Accelerated Reader book, which you will learn more about in Year 2.



How often will my child's books be changed?

Generally speaking, we will aim to change reading books in KS1 as and when is required. This will be a number of times in the week so books should be returned daily in the child's bookbag.

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What do I do when my child is reading?

Encourage them to have a go at sounding out words they do not know or think what it might be by using the pictures in the story, the events of the book. Ask them questions about what they are reading from time to time.

- **What was your favourite part of the story?**
- **What do you think will happen next?**
- **Why do you think that character did that?**
- **What do you think the story was about?**

Children who often have little comprehension of the words they read they will often struggle to make deductions from the text, or predict. Then they may actually start to dislike reading which rather than being a pleasurable thing to do becomes a tiresome chore.

Go at whatever pace suits you and do not worry about making mistakes!

How can I help my child become a better reader?

As with anything, performance improves with practice. Encourage your child to read at home. Create a culture of reading in your household by reading with your child, starting a home library, visiting your local library or bookshop on a regular basis and by letting your child see you reading. When reading with your child stop and ask questions to be sure your child comprehends what they have read and in general make a habit of discussing books that each of you has read.

Above all, enjoy! Laugh at the funny bits and have fun together!

Picture Books for Reading for Pleasure - (100 books to read before you are 5)

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/reading-lists-for-ks1-school-pupils/100-best-picture-books-to-read-before-you-are-5-years-old/>