

The Importance of Reading

Reading

We have the highest aspirations for our children to learn to read and make reading a priority at Avondale Primary School. Reading is at the heart of our school curriculum. The most important starting point is to read to children. Reading to children is the best way of encouraging them to love books and reading. By reading stories aloud to our children every day, we hope to form a link between reading and comfort and love. When adults love a book, children want to hear it again, and again, and again...! Children thrive on repetition, so when we read books over again, we are hard wiring their brains for success. Often, the more we read, the more the story 'belongs' to the child. When children know the story well they will want to 'read it' over and over again, joining in with the actions and expressions that adults use.

Parent video: Why read to your child?

Visit You Tube to hear more about reading <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=82UIkhRiHPk>

Stories, nursery rhymes, poems and songs

Children need lots of opportunities to develop familiarity with stories, nursery rhymes, poems and songs. As children grow, they build strong emotional attachments to the memories associated with learning stories, nursery rhymes, poems and songs. They become an important link between past and present, as they are passed down from generation to generation.

As children chant the exaggerated patterns in the rhymes or songs, they develop a strong sensitivity to rhyme, rhythm and alliteration. On each repetition, they deepen their familiarity with the words and phrases. The more children know the rhyme, the more they 'own it'. By reading aloud to our children, we hope to take them into a world that goes well beyond our typical everyday spoken language. Stories teach children to:

- Sustain attention
- Learn thousands of new words
- Deepen their knowledge of words on every retelling
- Hear exaggerated patterns in words and phrases- discrete sounds, rhyme and alliteration
- Link thoughts from one part of the story to another
- Become familiar with complex and compound sentences
- Understand the emotions of others
- Build pictures in their minds from the words on a page
- Find out about new places, people and things
- Understand the nuance of humour
- Follow a plot with twists and turns

- Understand suspense and predict what's about to happen next

Home Reading

Each week as part of our home reading programme your child will receive-

- two schemed books (either a discussion book or a decodable book)
- one library book

SCHEMED BOOKS

Discussion Books - Initially, children bring home a discussion book, meaning they are wordless. However, these books are very important to a child's reading development. Early books allow children to learn how stories work, including the order and direction in which they read, without the pressure of words on the page. The focus is comprehension skills not reading skills. Children will enjoy talking about the story and discussing what is happening in the pictures. The pictures provide lots of opportunities to develop vocabulary, and also play with environmental sounds, which is an important first step in the teaching of phonics.

Below are some activities and ideas you may want to try when sharing these discussion books with your child:

- Respond to your child's ideas by repeating them back and introducing new words to increase their vocabulary.
- Look at the front cover and read the title to your child. Ask them what they think the story will be about? Relate the title back to your child i.e. 'The lost gloves' Have they ever lost anything? or 'Puddles' What do you do when you see a puddle?
- Allow your child to turn the pages of the book and describe what they see in the pictures. You could take it in turns to tell a page of the story. Encouraging pupils to turn their own pages is also great for developing fine motor control!
- Encourage your child to add sounds to accompany the action in story and talk about any sounds that might be found in the story setting i.e. 'Feed the Birds' what sounds might you hear outside?
- Once you have finished sharing the book ask your child to retell the story in their own words i.e. What happened first? What happened next? How did the story end?
- Did they enjoy the book? Why?
- Ask your child to point to different things on the page e.g. the angry man.
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Decodable Books – These are simple stories constructed using almost exclusively words that are phonetically decodable, using letters and letter-groups that children have learned during phonic lessons. Parents can worry that these books are not 'challenging', but the decodable books are designed to reinforce and consolidate the learning that has taken place in class. Pupils will receive a decodable book as soon as they can confidently recognise and blend some of the phase 2 sounds to read simple words – this stage will be different for all children.

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Library Books - In addition to reading scheme books, all children bring home a library book. This will be a book that they have selected and that interests them. These books will be much more challenging, and there is no expectation for pupils to read these books themselves. We ask that parents share the reading or read this book to their child. These books are a great opportunity to discuss any new words and knowledge, so parents should discuss the content and meaning.

HOME READING DIARY –

At Avondale, we ask parents/carers to practise reading with their child **5 TIMES EACH WEEK FOR 10 minutes**. Eventually this might include –

- Reading their home reading books (schemed books)
- Practising letter sounds
- Practising tricky words
- Sharing a bedtime story
- Sharing their library book

Parents/carers are asked to date and sign your child's reading diary each time you hear them read. Please ensure your child brings their reading folder (reading book and home reading diary) to school every day. Reading books will only be changed if their reading diary has been signed.

READING REWARDS –

Every week pupils who read 5 times each week will receive 3 rewards points and their names are entered into our Reception reading raffle.

For more information about supporting your child in their reading journey have a look at these useful webpages

Blackburn with Darwen Library Service

Please see <https://www.blackburn.gov.uk/libraries-and-reading/childrens-libraries> for information about the fantastic books and resources available for children.

For more information about supporting your child in their reading journey have a look at these useful webpages –

- <https://www.avondaleschool.co.uk/reading>
- <https://www.thereaderteacher.com/reception>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z7ycbdlm>
- <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/>
- <https://www.phonicsbloom.com/>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/making-time-for-books-at-home>