

# Chalkwell Hall Infant School

## Reading Booklet for Parents

### Enjoying Books Together

Regularly reading aloud to children helps them to develop a love of stories and books and it also enriches their vocabulary. It gives you a chance to pass on your love of reading too.

Take your child to the public library to choose stories for you to read, and information books they want to explore. Let them show you reading books, sharing books and school library books they have chosen at school. Share these books with your child, talk about them, show interest and relate experiences to your family.

### Reading to Your Child

Make reading fun - read with drama and excitement, with different voices for the characters, re-read favourite stories, choose books and authors that your child enjoys, take turns reading, join in repetitive parts and rhyming, read a variety of material (stories, comics, poems, magazines, newspapers, texts, internet, emails, etc).

Set aside a special time each day when you can give your full attention to reading with your child. Find a quiet place so you are unlikely to be interrupted.

### How to Help Your Child Improve their Reading Skills

The ability to read is vital. It paves the way to success at school. Therefore at Chalkwell Hall Infant School we would recommend that children have the opportunity to read a few pages of their reading book each day with an adult at home.

Strategies for your child to try if he or she gets stuck on a word:

- Give them time to think about the word.
- Check the pictures for clues.
- Sound the word out.
- Think of a word that looks and sounds similar.
- Break the word down into smaller familiar parts or syllables.
- Have they recently been learning this sound in their words of the week?
- Think about what word would make sense in the story or sentence.
- Go back and read the sentence again.
- Ask for help with the word.

Encourage your child to increase their sight knowledge of group words so they develop a fluency of whole word reading.

It also helps your child if they listen to their own reading. They are more likely to hear mistakes and correct them independently.

As well as helping your child to be a confident, fluent reader, you also need to help him or her to understand what they are reading. Next are a few suggested discussion points to share as your child is reading a book. You may like to try one or two each time.

### Discussion Points to help your Child Develop

#### Comprehension Skills

Is this a fiction (story) or non-fiction (information) book?

What is the title? Who is the author? Who is the illustrator?

*For a fiction book:*

What do you think this book will be about?

Who are the characters in the book? What are they like?

Where is the story set?

What will happen at the end?

What did you like/dislike about the book and why?

Can you retell the story?

*For a non-fiction book:*

What sort of information could you find out in this book?

On which page could you find out about...?

Can you think of 2 new facts you have learnt from reading this book?

How can you find out the meaning of new words you don't understand?

Don't forget this is guidance for you. If you still need more advice speak to your child's teacher.

When your child is starting to read more complex texts, you need to be further developing their understanding, and the discussion points below are there to support you when doing this. As before try a few with each book.

### Discussion Points to help your Child Improve their Comprehension Skills

#### *For a fiction book:*

At different points in the story, discuss the characters:

- Why has that character done that?
- What are they thinking?
- What sort of person are they? (mean, kind, unhappy, etc)
- Where in the text does it tell you this?

How are the settings described in the story?

Can you summarise the story?

Was the ending as you expected? Why?

Would you recommend this book to another person?  
Why?

#### *For a non-fiction book:*

Can you find out information using the glossary, the index and the contents page?

How do the headings on a page help you?

Can you explain what you have found out about on that page?

What extra information did you find from looking at the pictures, diagrams, photographs and captions?

After reading the book, have you learned what you expected to learn from this book?

Don't forget it is important to keep reading to your child even after he or she has learned to read well. By reading stories that will interest your child but are above his or her reading level, you can stretch your child's understanding and keep alive the magic of reading.

Don't forget if you need more advice speak to your child's teacher.