

Home Reading...



- **There are two types of home reading – reading books to your child and your child reading books to you – both are vitally important in their reading development.**

Reading by your child

- In Prep and Year 1 the home readers usually match the sounds they have covered previously in class. They are mainly decodable texts. They are not 'levelled.'
- In Year 2, they may be bringing home decodable texts, or 'natural readers' or a chapter book.
- Occasionally they will seem a bit too easy or too hard – this is ok – remember it is based on consolidating the sounds they are learning, not the level of difficulty
- Reading a book several times over the week is a great strategy with a good effect size (proven by research.) In the repeated readings, you can focus on fluency, expression and a comprehension question.
- Spaced practice is also important (research backed) – read every day rather than one big session.
- Do it at a time that suits your child (this might be in the morning rather than straight after school).
- Make it 'fun' and lightweight. If you are anxious – they will be anxious
- If they come across a word they don't know, ask them to 'use their sounds.' Give them time to work it out first, then give them some clues – what does the first letter say? Seed – sss, ok good, now what does double e say? Eee. For harder words – syllabify them first.
- If you are noticing issues, make an appointment with the class teacher.

Reading to your child

- Reading aloud to your child remains vitally important long after they are able to read for themselves.
- It allows them to access rich, high level literary vocabulary and ideas that would be too difficult for them to read on their own.
- Discussing books orally aids in developing higher level comprehension skills – try to ask one or two 'right there' literal questions as well as a couple of 'in my head' inferential questions... 'What do you think he will do next? Why do you think that?'
- Keep reading until at least the end of primary school. You can serial read novels from Year 1 onwards.
- After that, buy them books and talk about what they are enjoying reading – give them time and space for reading – it is a gift.
- Make it an expectation from when they are young and keep it going.
- Provide a welcoming quiet space. No devices when they are reading.