



Reading at Home Guide

Reading improves all of a child's English skills and can offer them a lifetime of satisfaction and knowledge of the world around them.

At Etonbury Juniors we aim to encourage a love of reading. We also want our children to enjoy discovering new books and understand that reading is crucial to their development. Through Guided Reading sessions, one to one reading, group reading and whole class work in English lessons, children are exposed to a variety of different genres. As we aim to give children high quality reading experiences that support and challenge them to delve further into the texts, they are encountering and develop confidence in being able to discuss them.

Why is Reading Important at Home?

Reading with your child at home is a remarkably important way to support their love of learning. Reading books together, reading to your child, hearing them read, discussing reading techniques and different genres are all key strategies that will help your child to develop into an able and accomplished reader as well as writer.

How Does Etonbury Celebrate Reading at Home?

Each of our learners are given planners with a reading section within, this is for recording the reading that they are undertaking at school and home. If your child reads three or more times a week at home with a parent/carer or family member, they will receive a Star Reader stamp in their planner. There is not a minimum or maximum number of pages that your child needs to read each night, as every child is unique and explores reading at different rates. Once your child has collected six Star Reader stamps, we celebrate their achievement by allowing them to collect a book of their choice from our special book bank to keep.

Tips for Reading at Home

Here are some general tips for reading that may help you with sharing books and talking with your children about what they are reading at home.

1. Remember that children need to read a variety of texts such as stories, reports, information texts, poems, etc. They also love being read to by adults, particularly if you can do the voices! If you show children, you enjoy reading it will have a positive impact.
2. Look at the list of recommended books for different age groups by visiting Show My Homework or our school website. Children will receive bookmarks that recommend must read books within their year group.
3. If you feel you need more support with appropriate texts, find that your child is reluctant to read or is finding reading difficult you should arrange to meet with their class teacher.
4. Sharing a book with a child.
5. Make sure your child has a comfortable, quiet place to sit. Distractions such as TV can make it difficult for children to concentrate.
6. Remember talking about books is as important as reading them. Children need to have enthusiasm for texts so allow them to choose their own from the library as well as their school reading books.



Reading Aloud

It is important that children read aloud, as it improves their decoding and listening skills. Help your child to sound out and blend any unfamiliar words. If they are still unsure, tell them the word and explain what it means. Then read the sentence again together. Remember to use praise a lot and tell them why they have done well i.e. "I really enjoyed listening to that sentence because you made it sound so exciting!"

Some children may feel that they enjoy reading on their own more and prefer to read in their head instead of aloud to an adult. This is usually evidence that they are enjoying the reading experience and are skilled and independent enough to read alone. The focus for a parent at this point should be more on discussion of comprehension and fostering an environment where sharing reading experiences and opinions about books is valued at home.

Comprehension

One of the most important parts of reading is comprehension. If a child decodes fluently, but does not fully understand the story or text, then they struggle to enjoy or appreciate books. It is therefore essential that children have opportunity to discuss what they are reading.

One of the more crucial parts of reading is being able to conclude and infer ideas. Open ended questioning such as; 'why would...?' or 'how might...?' will help with this. Asking children to tell you why or show you clues in the text can improve their inference skills dramatically.

We have enclosed a reading question chart that could be used in a discussion with a child about a book. These question starters help you think of some starting points for discussion that will assist children to unpick and fully understand what they are reading.



Reading Question Chart

	Is (Present)	Did (Past)	Can (Possibility)	Would (Probability)	Will (Prediction)	Might (Imagination)
Who (Event)	Who is...?	Who did...?	Who can...?	Who would...?	Who will...?	Who might...?
What (Where/when)	What is...?	What did...?	What can...?	What would...?	What will...?	What might...?
Where (Choice)	Where is...?	Where did...?	Where can...?	Where would...?	Where will...?	Where might...?
When (Person)	When is...?	When did...?	When can...?	When would...?	When will...?	When might...?
Why (Reason)	Why is...?	Why did...?	Why can...?	Why would...?	Why will...?	Why might...?
How (Meaning)	How is...?	How did...?	How can...?	How would...?	How will...?	How might...?