



Padstow School & Nursery

Head of School: Mrs K Whitford

3rd February 2023

READING WITH YOUR CHILD

One of the most important skills we can teach children is the skill of reading. If a child can read, they can access all areas of the curriculum and this will lead to them becoming lifelong learners. We aim to develop a love of reading in all children and need to work with parents and carers to achieve this.

Children should read daily at home. Older, more confident, fluent children could read to themselves and then share with an adult. Children should also be encouraged to discuss their reading with an adult or an older sibling to improve their understanding of what they have read. *Please see the list on the reverse of this letter of suggested questions to support your reading with your child.*

Every child has their own Reading Record book to be used for recording any reading completed at home. Our expectations are that each child reads **at least 5 times a week** with parents signing to record that read in their child's Reading Record book.

Reading Record books must be looked after carefully and respected like all other school books with children taking pride in presentation and content, applying the same presentation rules as in class. Entries in these Reading Record books should only be in pencil, blue or black pen. Class teachers monitor Reading Record books weekly and I look at them as often as I can.

If any adult in school reads with your child, you will know this has happened as it will be recorded in the Reading Record book using pink pen.

Please also add any comments about your child's reading to the Reading Record book for the class teacher's information.

Thank you very much for your support with this – some of the parent / carer comments to children are amazing, funny, supportive and caring. A privilege to read.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Kate Whitford
Head of School



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Comprehension:

A key part 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 make conclusions and make guesses about what is happening and/or about a character using the information in the text. Open ended questioning such as; 'Why do you think that happened?' or 'What makes you think that?' will help with this. Asking children to tell you why or show you clues in the text or pictures can improve their inference skills dramatically.

Please use the potential questions below to help you when discussing a book with your child. This is not a complete list but should hopefully give some starting points for any discussion that will help children to unpick and fully understand what they are reading.

Sample questions that you could use for book talk:

- Why did you choose this book? What made you want to read it?
- Did you know anything about this book before you started reading it? What do you think about it now you have read some? Is it how you imagined it would be? Why/why not? Is it as good as you thought it would be?
- Can you tell me what's happened so far (fiction)?
- What has been the most exciting part? Why?
- Can you tell me what this book is about (non-fiction)? What facts have you learned?
- What can you do if you can't read a word?
- What can you do if you can read a word, but you don't know what it means?
- Have you come across this word before? How did you know how to say it? Are there any clues in the word? Does it look like other words you know?
- Can you work out what that word means? How can you use the rest of the sentence, page or pictures to help you?
- What other word could the author have used that means the same sort of thing?
- Can you tell me what has happened in this chapter/on this page?
- Why do you think X (a character) did that?
- How could we describe that character? What are they like? How do we know that from what they say and do?
- How do you think X (a character) is feeling at the moment? Show me which words / phrases tell us that.
- Why do you think Y (an event) happened?
- What do you think will happen next? What makes you think that?
- How do you think the author wants us to feel at this moment? How are they trying to do that? What is he/she trying to do here?
- What do you think the purpose of using ____ (word or phrase) is in this paragraph?
- Why did the author choose that title?
- What is the effect of writing in the past/present tense?