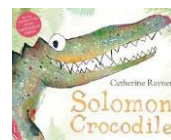




Meltham CE Primary School



Reading with your child

Reading is an essential skill that is vital for everyday life. Reading from an early age helps build self-esteem, increases vocabulary, feeds imagination and can even help improve sleep patterns. We work hard to allow each child to succeed in their reading journey and here are some ideas for how you can help your child at home. We really encourage you to start a reading routine as soon as possible. We highly recommend that you read with, and to, your child every day in a calm and quiet environment. Reading before bed can be an ideal time although reading when extremely tired can take the fun out of it!

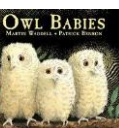
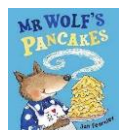
School reading book

It is important that they practise their school reading book every day using the phonics they have been taught. Although these books aren't always the most exciting books for grown-ups, it is important that we build the children's self-esteem and confidence as they practise their blending skills. Can they read a page aloud to a family member? Can they teach a new word they have blended to a sibling? Can they perform their reading book to their family? Rereading their school books is really important. It builds their confidence with reading and reinforces words and vocabulary that they have learnt.

Story books

Story books are magical places for children to enhance their imagination. We love reading stories to the children at school! Here are some ideas on how to make the most of a story book:

- Change your voice for different characters. Can your child imitate the speech and the voice? Can your child choose their own voice to match a character?
- Get your child to anticipate the next event. What do you think will happen next? What makes you think that? How do you think the character will feel?
- Engage your child with the illustrations in the book. What can you see? Can you spot the troll? How many stars are in the sky?
- Invite your child to hold the book and turn the individual pages whilst you read the story.
- Encourage your child to follow the words with their finger as you read the story. Can they spot a sound or a word they are familiar with?
- Encourage your child to join in with repeated words and phrases. There are lots of books that are brilliant for this, especially traditional tales. "Who's been sleeping in my bed?" "Who's that trip-trapping over my bridge?"
- Give your child a chance to blend a word on a page. This builds confidence as they are putting their phonics into practise.
- Reread story books – lots! Children love repetition as it is comforting and it builds familiarity with stories. Children will begin finishing sentences and recognising words as they become very familiar with texts.
- Enjoy a variety of genres and texts. Read a funny poem; explore a fact book about an animal; share a recipe or instructions on how to build or make something; share an information book about a different culture or country; explore a story about a historical event – there are so many different types of texts, enjoy!
- We hope that there are some helpful tips on how to engage your child in reading and how to foster a love of story books. Don't forget to tweet or email a picture of your favourite story book!



The Foundation Stage team

