



Orchard Community Primary School

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2.12.25

Re. Reading at home

Dear Parents/Carers,

At school, we have been so impressed with the progress the children are making in their reading, and we truly appreciate the support that you already provide at home. As reading is such an important part of their learning journey, I'm writing to kindly ask for your continued help in encouraging your child to read a little more regularly at home – particularly if this is not something that is already built into your home-learning routine.

Why is reading at home so important?

Reading at home provides significant **academic, cognitive, social, and emotional benefits** for primary school children, consistently linking to higher academic performance across all subjects.

Academic and Cognitive Benefits

- **Improved Attainment:** Children who read regularly for pleasure perform better in reading assessments and across the entire curriculum, including Maths and Science. The positive relationship between reading enjoyment and attainment is well-documented by research from sources like the [GOV.UK education hub](https://www.gov.uk/education-hub) and the National Literacy Trust.
- **Enhanced Vocabulary and Language Skills:** Reading exposes children to a wide array of new words and complex sentence structures, which they subconsciously absorb, improving their own speaking and writing.
- **Stronger Comprehension and Critical Thinking:** Discussing plots, characters, and themes helps children develop a deeper understanding of texts and hones their critical thinking skills by encouraging them to question and form opinions.
- **Increased Concentration and Focus:** Reading requires quiet focus, and regular practice helps children develop the ability to concentrate for longer periods, a skill crucial for learning in all areas.
- **Better Fluency and Confidence:** Re-reading favourite books and practicing reading aloud at home builds confidence and fluency with words, patterns, and language rhythms.

Social and Emotional Benefits

- **Develops Empathy and Social Skills:** By engaging with different characters' feelings and experiences in stories, children learn to understand and relate to others' perspectives, fostering empathy and social skills.



- **Strengthens Family Bonds:** Shared reading time, such as bedtime stories or visiting the library together, provides valuable opportunities for parents and children to connect, creating lasting memories and a sense of security.
- **Improved Wellbeing:** Research shows a link between reading daily and higher levels of wellbeing and emotional resilience in children.
- **Stimulates Imagination:** Reading encourages children to visualise descriptions and imagine new worlds and scenarios, fostering creativity and imagination.
- **Reading as Entertainment:** Reading helps children see books as a source of fun and entertainment, providing a healthy escape from daily stresses and reducing boredom.

How you can help...

Encouraging reading at home, **even for just 10-15 minutes a day**, can have a profound and lasting impact on a child's life, influencing their future success and opportunities.

We really understand that families are very busy and that time can be limited, but if you can only do one thing to support your child, PLEASE make it reading with and to them.

As well as information on the school's website, the National Literacy Trust and BookTrust offer further resources and tips for supporting reading at home.

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/research-services/research-reports/parents-support-for-young-childrens-literacy-at-home-in-2024/>

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/parents-and-families/>

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/resources/find-resources/reading-together/>

Thank you for your anticipated support.

Best wishes

Fiona Shields

Headteacher & English Leader

