

Message to parents – how you can support at home

PRIMARY

From Monday, all parents and carers are going to be directly involved in their child's education on a daily basis.

With children learning from home, you will be supporting their learning in ways that you may never have considered before.

This is a partnership between us at school and you at home. Together, we'll do it really well.

Don't worry, we're not expecting parents to become teachers!

But we all know that children learn best when there is someone taking an active involvement in what they are doing and is there to encourage, support and praise them.

We have provided work packs for you to work through with your child each day. But there are some other important things that you can do at home that will make a big difference to how your child learns during their time at home.

Here are some suggestions for helping them with their reading and also with their learning more generally.

READING TIPS:

Reading with your child is one of the most important things that you can be doing.

Here are some tips for making it even more valuable.

Tip 1:

Asking your child questions about what they are reading is a great way to develop their understanding of the ideas in the book.

Ask your child:

- to explain the five 'Ws' in a book – what, why, where, when, and who;
- to tell you what has happened in the book so far and to guess what might happen next;
- to tell you about the links between the book and real life. For example, what experiences have they had that are similar to the ones the characters are having in the book?

Tip 2:

Children love reading to you and it's important that they get the chance to do so.

When your child is reading to you, you can help them with a tricky word by using 'pause, prompt, praise':

- *pause* to let your child work out the word they are stuck on;
- *prompt* them if they need help by giving them a clue (or, if they are really stuck, tell them the answer);
- *praise* them when they concentrate and get the right word;
- and *praise* them for their effort when they have finished the task.

Tip 3:

Children love being read to.

Reading books to your child that they would not be able to read themselves is great way to stretch their reading skills and vocabulary. It also makes them want to read more difficult books themselves.

This can also be particularly effective for children who do not enjoy the books they are able to read for themselves.

Tip 4:

Children love to hear a good story again and again.

Repeating stories helps to build your child's language skills, so don't worry if they are hooked on one book.

Tip 5:

Games are a great way to help improve children's spelling and vocabulary.

Scrabble, word searches, and crosswords are all great activities to help with spelling and vocabulary. There are lots of free or very cheap games available online or through phones' app stores.

Tip 6:

If you find it hard to get your child interested in reading, pick books that are about the things they are interested in. You can read things about sport or history, or the novel that a film they love is based on.

ENCOURAGING YOUR CHILD AT HOME

- Take an interest in what your child is working on. Ask questions, be curious, ask them to teach you about something;
- Ask them what they think about the books they are reading, the films and television they are watching, or the news;
- Offer a lot of praise and encouragement. Giving your child praise for their hard work is really important. It can keep them going when they are struggling. Children really value this from their parents – even if they don't tell you that!
- Make sure your child has a good routine in place for completing work. It might help to have specific times for using technology, going outside, reading, and completing school-work. Children are used to routine in school so it's okay to have this at home too. You could put together a timetable of activities together.
- Provide your child with a space where they can work. Ideally this would be somewhere quiet and where there are no distractions.