



South Hykeham Community Primary School

Wath Lane, South Hykeham, Lincoln LN6 9PG

Telephone/Fax: (01522) 681919

Headteacher: Mr John Richardson BSc (Hons) P.G.C.E.

Dear Parent,

Our aims for reading at South Hykeham Community Primary School are that children see reading as an enjoyable and worthwhile experience. We would like them to become confident and fluent readers, who can choose from a wide range of books.

Each class will follow a book led approach to English lessons. Through this, we hope to delve into storylines, vocabulary use and authorial decisions to help support reading and writing skills. When trialling this approach to English lessons last year, we were thrilled to see how well children engaged in the class books and how rich discussions were in class as children got carried away with story lines.

To further support independent reading, KS2 children will be given a specific book band colour (we follow Badger Learning for KS2 book band support). Children are then encouraged to select their own books from their band colour from the library. We encourage children to look at the front cover, read the blurb and also read the first page before deciding on which book they take home. Please ensure all reading is recorded using BoomReader.

KS2 children will also take part in a minimum of ten minutes a day independent reading or shared reading during school times. In this time, we encourage children to read their selected school book so we are able to support children with book changes/continue to assess and ensure children are on the correct book band.

KS1 children have three reading sessions a week which are in line with the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised scheme (a further letter to support this will be sent home). There are two types of reading book that your child may bring home in KS1 (please note, it is likely your child will only bring one book home during Autumn term).

A reading practice book. This will be at the correct phonic stage for your child. They should be able to read this fluently and independently. This book has been carefully matched to your child's current reading level. If your child is reading it with little help, please don't worry that it's too easy – your child needs to develop fluency and confidence in reading.

Listen to them read the book. Remember to give them lots of praise – celebrate their success! If they can't read a word, read it to them. After they have finished, talk about the book together.



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A sharing book. Your child may not be able to read this on their own. This book is for you both to read and enjoy together. In order to encourage your child to become a lifelong reader, it is important that they learn to read for pleasure. The sharing book is a book they have chosen for you to enjoy together.

Please remember that you shouldn't expect your child to read this alone. Read it to or with them. Discuss the pictures, enjoy the story, predict what might happen next, use different voices for the characters, explore the facts in a non-fiction book. The main thing is that you have fun!

Throughout their time at school, the help you give your child with reading is very important. The more opportunities your child has to enjoy reading at home the better. Little and often usually works best, so we would ask that you hear your child read or share a book with them a minimum of three times a week.

Hints and tips when reading with your child

- Choose a quiet time away from distractions like the television or computer games.
- If your child is tired and not engaged, it may be best to try reading with them at a different time or to share the reading experience. Take turns reading a page at a time or read at the same time (you could whisper the words as your child reads with a louder voice).
- Give lots of praise and encouragement to boost your child's confidence.
- Try to read lots of different kinds of books, not just your child's school reading book. Read what your child enjoys! (Children are still able to earn reading rewards even if it isn't their class book.)
- Read anywhere - make the most of any times your child has to sit and wait or when you are out and menus/signs need reading.

Understanding the meaning

Talking about and being able to understand what has been read is just as important as reading the words accurately. It will benefit your child to ask them questions about the story as they read as well as at the end of the story. Below is a suggested approach to help you support your child in reading:





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1. TALK about the book before you read it.
2. LOOK at the illustrations, the cover and the title.
3. ASK "What do you think it is about?"
4. READ Encourage word recognition, discuss the meaning of unfamiliar words , model using different voices or pausing for punctuation.
5. TALK about the story line, ideas, meaning and characters in the book.

Please find a guide to asking questions based on books attached.

Please communicate with us at school using your child's reading record, email, or coming to see us if you have any concerns. Positive comments or any concerns you may have will enable us to focus teaching at school as well as encourage your child to improve further.

If you have any questions or would like further information about reading at South Hykeham School, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jones

