

# How to help your child with their reading.

Dear parents/carers,

We would like to offer some further help and support in encouraging your child to read, both at school and at home, and hope you find this information useful for developing a positive reading atmosphere with your child.



## Why read with your child?

Reading with your child, for just a few minutes a day, will help them develop their vocabulary, their understanding of language and help them develop a love of books. Children love spending time with the grown-ups in their lives too!

Age is no barrier – just because your child may be a confident, older reader does not mean you cannot share reading experiences. Today your child has been given a comprehension bookmark which has prompts and question starters which can be adapted to any book your child is reading. Using these prompts regularly will help your child develop vital comprehension skills which are equally as important as word reading skills.

## My Child Doesn't Want to Read

With so many other activities competing for children's time, how can you continue to encourage your child to read for pleasure?

- **Ensure that your children see you reading.** It doesn't matter if it's the newspaper, a cookery book, romantic novel, detective mystery, short stories, computer manual, magazine - anything!
- **Encourage children to join in** - ask a child to read out a recipe for you as you cook, or the TV listings when you are watching TV
- **Give books or book tokens as presents**, and encourage others to do so
- **Visit the local library together** on a regular basis, and enjoy spending time choosing new books
- **Encourage** children to carry a book at all **times** so they can read on journeys or in spare moments – you can do this, too!
- **Keep reading together.** Read books you can all talk about but make the talk light-hearted, not testing or over-questioning
- **Make sure your home is a reading home** - have a family bookshelf and make sure there are shelves in your children's bedrooms as well.
- **Don't panic if your child reads the same book over** and over again - be honest, we've probably all done it.

On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February (upper school, 3.30pm), Miss Scarr will be hosting a reading workshop which all parents/carers are invited to in order to develop reading skills and reading for pleasure with your child-we hope to see you there!