Parent Helpers
Reading Tips
Parent Helpers

The staff values your contribution to the children’s learning and appreciates your help. We hope you find your time with us rewarding, enjoyable and informative.

Some reminders:

- Always treat children with respect and in the same sort of way that you would expect them to treat you.
- Be friendly
- Praise the children wherever possible.
- Encourage children to be polite
- If you are concerned about a child for any reason, have a word with the Class Teacher or the Assistant Principal. - Do not speak directly to the parents of the child. This is the teacher's job (see section on confidentiality)

One of the tasks that you will probably be involved in is reading with the children. This is an important but time consuming task.

The exact approach will depend on the reading level of the child.

**Beginning readers**

1. The child should be aware that you read from left to right, turning the pages that way and reading the lines left to right and top to bottom.
2. Read the title, look at the cover and talk about what the story might be about.
3. Read the book together to start with.
4. Discuss the pictures and the story, before or after reading each page.
5. Read the book again pointing to each word as you read.
6. If a child doesn’t know a word tell them.
Early readers

1. Read the title look at the cover and talk about what the story might be about
2. Ask the child to point to each word as he/she reads it.
3. Discuss the pictures and the story, before or after each page.
4. Read the story together.
5. You may ask the child to find key words which are repeated several times in the book i.e. ‘the’, ‘up’, ‘in’, etc.
6. The child should be aware of full stops and that you need to pause at a full stop and not to run sentences together.

Extending reading

As the children can read more words try to get them to work out new words by making a good logical guess. Maybe the picture will help. If the child has good knowledge of initial sounds, looking at the first letter strings or small words within words, sound out the whole word e.g. ing in king

Try to get the child to read to the end of the sentence and then go back to work out an unknown word.

Even with competent readers you should discuss the stories and pictures. Also you can try to encourage the children to use expression or put on suitable voices. You might demonstrate this to the child.

Possible Discussion Questions

The following are examples of the types of questions to use when discussing a story.

What was the story about?
Who was the main character?
What sort of a person was he/she?
What would you have done?
What could he/she have done?
Which part did you like best? Why?
What would have happened if…?
Try to relate some ideas to the child’s own experiences. i.e.
Can you….? Have you ever?
Using the Reading Record Books

When you have heard a child read please add the information as required by the class teacher. Each teacher has their own method of monitoring classroom reading, please check if unsure.

Changing Reading Books

It is quite usual for a child to have finished a book at home and therefore they will need to change it. The children are free to choose any book within their level. Please do not move a child onto a new level even if they have read every book in that level (this is the teachers role). Some children may need help to select a book and possibly having a quick flick through some of the books may help them to choose.

Confidential Information

Occasionally in school you will become aware of information about children which is confidential or private to the child or their family. This is a delicate matter that requires a great deal of tact on your part. Any information of concern should be mentioned to the teacher or Assistant Principal. Any conversation with parents outside, is a breach of the school’s or child’s confidence. Even a comment to a parent such as, ‘your Jimmy reads well,’ is not acceptable as others will wonder why you have not said that to them. Also comparing your child’s reading to others in the grade can create anxiety for both parent and child. It is very important to treat anything you hear or see in school with regard to particular children, as being in absolute confidence and entirely a matter within the school. Similarly you may find that parents who are friends will ask about the progression or behaviour of their children in school. Again, this is a matter requiring a great deal of tact on your part and it is very important that you firmly suggest that if they are worried in any way about their child then they must discuss the matter themselves with the Assistant Principal or the Class Teacher. In case we forget to say so, please be assured that we really do appreciate your help (we may be too busy to say so but we do!!)

If you have any concerns or queries, or any good ideas on how we can improve something, please let us know - We are always willing to listen.

Once again..........Thank You