

# The Importance of Reading



Reading is THE most important thing your child needs to learn. It will make learning other subjects easier and open up many more opportunities for them.

Simply speaking, "The more words I know, the cleverer I am"

- Oracy - the ability to express oneself fluently and grammatically in speech.
- Listening - giving ones attention to a sound.

Oracy and listening is where reading begins. Children need to be able to hear a sound and distinguish between different sounds/noises to be able to speak correctly and ultimately read. Prior to school, children will begin to focus on phase 1 phonics. If a young child can't tell the difference between the sound a drum makes and a maraca makes, they won't be able to distinguish between a 'd' or a 's' for example. Phase 1 continues alongside all other phases of phonics to embed its importance.

Oracy and listening should be modelled correctly by us all. This will ultimately mean children learn more vocabulary too.

*"Once you learn to read you will be forever free"*

Phonics - phonics is how children learn to read. They learn individual phonemes (sounds) and the grapheme (letters) that make that sound. If a child is unable to hear the difference between a 's' and a 'e' they are not ready to see the letters yet. Once children learn a few sounds and their graphemes they will be able to say the phoneme for the letters (grapheme) and eventually blend them together to make a word. If their listening and oracy is good they will be able to hear the word, blend it and hopefully understand what that word means.

*"The more we know, the more we CAN know"*

*"Knowledge is power"*

Quantity and Quality of Books - children should be exposed to a wide range of texts. There should be a range of fiction and non-fiction and a wide range of topics. Understandably children will have their own interests and preferences, but exploring as many as possible is extremely beneficial. If a child already knows a little bit about a topic such as the Romans for example, the easier it will be to learn something new as there is already a small amount of knowledge to link their learning back to.

## "Mirrors and Windows"

- Mirrors - Children need to be able to see themselves in books. This could be their; appearance, age, abilities, likes, family life, religion, gender, ethnicity etc. They need to see they are represented in books (in a positive way!)
- Windows - Now I've seen myself (mirrors) I want to see and learn about people who are different to me to help me grow as a person. This could be through gender, religion, family life, disabilities, ethnicity, differences, feelings, etc.

Classics - stories that are deemed classics can also be read by everyone. Some examples include Peter Pan, Robin Hood, The Secret Garden, The Wind in the Willows, The Railway Children etc.

*"The limits of my language are the limits of my world"*

Simply put the more words a child knows, the cleverer they are. This stems from the study that by 3 years of age there is a 30 million word gap between the wealthiest and poorest families.

*"Knowing more words makes you smarter" – as children learn new words they then learn the meaning of the words in the context of what they are reading and can make wider links to how the words can be used in a different context as well.*

While children, particularly in KSI, take reading books home to help their decoding, phonics and word reading, they also must be exposed to higher level texts and stories to improve their vocabulary and knowledge of topics. This can absolutely be done through audio books and by adults reading to them. This will model how to read and will allow children to hear the pronunciation, fluency and intonation of different readers.

## HOW?

This website below is amazing for searching for books around specific topics. You can search by age, gender, topic, subject etc



<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/>



YouTube has some audio books too and some books to read aloud.



Your local library and local book shops will also be able to recommend some good books too. You might even want to start a book share within certain years or between friends.



If you wanted to track your book reading the Goodreads App is free and you can read reviews, follow friends' progress and search authors work for inspiration.



Don't forget we also have a well-stocked library at school which your child can borrow books from.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I cannot stress how vital reading is to your child's education and ultimately future! It should be a sacred part of the day. I would also recommend leading by example, model a love of reading and children will ultimately follow in your footsteps!

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Kind regards,

Miss Nederlof (English lead)