



# REDHILL SCHOOL

January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

As I am sure you are aware, Literacy is fundamental for success in school and later life. Therefore, as a school, we are committed to the continual development of reading for all our pupils, across all aspects of our curriculum.

As part of our 'Reading at Redhill' programme, we have three strands that we work on as a school: Reading Intervention, Reading for Knowledge and Reading for Pleasure. Further information about each of these strands can be found here: <https://www.redhill.dudley.sch.uk/reading-to-learn-curriculum> on our website.

You can also support your child by encouraging them to read as much as possible. There are some great suggestions at: <https://www.lovereadng4kids.co.uk/genre/rel/great-books-to-motivate-reluctant-readers>.

We have also compiled a list of ideas and strategies below:

### ***How can Parents/Carers encourage reading at home?***

- Download free eBooks from the internet. Many children engage more with reading when it's on an interactive screen.
- Agree that video game play/social media time is matched with some time reading.
- Put subtitles on TV programmes.
- Listen to audiobooks.
- Read the same book as your child and discuss characters, chapters and moments.
- Let your child see you reading.
- Set a time for reading – studies show that reading a book before bed promotes healthy sleep.
- Allow your child to read a range of texts, especially ones that match their interests. Comics, magazines, newspapers and lots more are all acceptable. Reading is not just about books.
- Discuss what your child has learned during the school day and what their day consisted of – dialogue and recounting what has happened during the day helps to consolidate learning.

### ***Supporting your child's reading:***

Research into the reading skills of 15 year-olds across the world found that children who are more interested in reading do better at school than those who don't read for pleasure. Studies also found that parents who talk to their children about books, TV programmes and films help to keep their children interested in reading. Having books, newspapers and magazines around

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***“Commitment to excellence”***

Headteacher ~ Mr J Clayton BA (Hons) NPQH

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at home also made a difference to how interested children were in reading. Here are our tips to support your child's reading:

- Let your child choose what to read, rather than choosing what you think they should read.
- Read yourself! It doesn't matter what it is – pick up a newspaper or magazine, take a look at a cookery book, read a computer manual, enjoy some poetry or dive into a romance or detective novel. And get your children to join in – if you're cooking, could they read the recipe? If you're watching TV, can they read out the listings?
- Encourage your child to read magazines, comics, newspapers and the internet as well as books.
- Buy books as presents. Don't forget TV tie-ins and books about interests such as computer games or bands.
- Help your child to find books they will enjoy by joining the public library, if you are not already members. It is free to join and many libraries have CDs and DVDs that can be borrowed very cheaply, as well as many different types of books that can be borrowed for free.
- Read together. Try picking reading material about interests or hobbies you share, like your football team or a place you have visited together. 10 minutes a few times a week will make a difference.
- Try some skimming and scanning together. Skimming is when you read through a piece of text quickly to find out what the main idea is; scanning is glancing through a piece of text to find a specific piece of information. You can do this with a newspaper – perhaps ask your child to find something out for you. Why not ask them to scan a newspaper for news about a favourite footballer or to find out the weekend weather, or get them to skim read a recipe to tell you the basic steps?
- Help your child to work out what an unfamiliar word means by getting them to read the rest of the sentence and look for clues.
- Help by testing your child when they have spellings to learn, and by encouraging them to look up words they don't know in a dictionary.
- Build up the number of words your child knows. As they go through secondary school, your child will need to know specialist words and recognise them when they are reading. To help them learn these words, you could ask your child to explain to you what they mean.
- Read together if your child is having problems with reading in a particular subject.
- Look up technical words you or your child don't recognise from their work in a dictionary or on the internet and make it your word of the day. When you have a list of new words you could test your child on them.

Thank you as ever for your support.

Yours faithfully



Mrs T. Gibbins  
Assistant Head Teacher, Teaching & Learning.