

Reading at Church Crookham Junior School

Here at Church Crookham Junior School we consider reading to be one of the most important skills your child will develop. We believe that reading is the key that unlocks the rest of the curriculum and encourages children to become independent learners.

As your child moves through the school their reading skills will be developed, challenged and refined. The aim of this letter is to inform you of the different approaches to reading we at school take and to guide you in supporting your child at home. Please remember that this is a guide and whichever way you choose to help your child, the main thing is to make it fun for both of you. Reading should be a source of enjoyment.

Reading at school:

During the year your child will read a range of fiction, non-fiction and poetry.

They will be given opportunities to develop their reading skills during whole class sessions. Time will be spent reading a text and discussing its structure and meaning.

Your child will also regularly read as part of a focused group studying a text in more detail. During these sessions their reading will be heard and they will be questioned in more detail.

Children are expected to become responsible for their individual reading book, keeping a record of what they have read and changing their book when necessary.

Reading at home:

Parents have a vital role in helping their child to enjoy books and therefore want to learn to read. You are in a unique position of being able to give your child individual practise of developing their reading skills. Below are some tips for you to follow if you would like to:

- Sit side by side, if possible in a quiet room so your child can concentrate on reading.
- When your child makes a mistake or says the wrong word wait until the end of the sentence before saying anything. This gives your child the chance to spot the mistake and self correct.
- When your child meets an unfamiliar word help them work it out. You can do this by saying any of the following:
 - What sounds do the first letters make?
 - Can you see any smaller words within this word?
 - Can you guess the word by reading on?
- Ask your child questions about what they are reading to check their comprehension. You can refer to the 'next step' bookmarks that will be given to your child this term for ideas of what to ask.
- Discuss their enjoyment of the book as they read it. What characters do they like/ dislike and why? Can they predict what will happen next?

Top tips:

- Share non-fiction books as well as story books.
- Look for magazines on subjects of interest to your child.
- Show children how to look up words in dictionaries.
- Have books and story tapes available at home.
- Cook together to read labels and recipes.
- Have fun reading and retelling stories together.
- Visit the library!