

READING AT WOODLANDS ACADEMY

A guide for Parents and Carers

Dear Parents and Carers,

Reading is a key life-skill that empowers your child both in and out of school. Being able to read impacts upon many other aspects of learning. It is a necessary skill in all subjects at school.

Woodlands Academy is committed to ensuring that *every* child gains the necessary reading skills to be able to access their lessons. Ultimately, the end goal for our students is to gain qualifications in their core and chosen subjects. We know that reading and understanding texts are vitally important, which is why every child receives two timetabled reading sessions every day.

In school, your child will experience a range of reading opportunities which include:

- Whole class reading
- Independent reading
- Comprehension tasks
- Reading for research
- Listening to an adult read

Some of these will happen in English and Reading sessions. Some will also happen in other subjects. Children will have opportunities to practise these skills across the curriculum.

At Woodlands Academy, children are taught a range of reading strategies, both within the classroom and as part of the Reading Intervention programme.

It is hoped that children will continue to develop their reading at home by reading with adults or older siblings, as well as reading by themselves and completing any home learning tasks that they are given.

This leaflet is designed to help you support your child's reading development.



Phonics

Children who need to bridge phonic gaps are taught using 'Little Wandle' - a DfE approved phonics programme. More information about this can be found on our website.

These phonics lessons take part daily. In addition, children are allocated a reading book which is fully decodable. They also have it as an eBook so that it can be accessed at home.

Comprehension

Comprehension strategies are taught within the English and Reading curricula, as well as being embedded in other subjects.

During reading comprehension, students will have opportunities to apply reading strategies such as prediction, inference, retrieval and summarising.

If reading comprehension is identified as an area to develop, children are timetabled for additional comprehension practise, either using reading books and targeted worksheets or an intervention programme called 'Fix It'.

Reading books

Moving forward, children will be given individual reading diaries and books at the appropriate level to bring home. Please read with your child and record this in the reading diaries.

Children will also be given opportunities to read their reading book at school.



How you can help your child at home

- Try to build reading at home into your daily routine- perhaps before bedtime.
- Have a quiet comfortable space your child and you can read in.
- Read with your child and read to your child.
- Let your child be the boss of the books they choose. Enjoyment really matters.
- Comics, information books, magazines, story books, picture books, poems and leaflets are all great for sharing.
- Catalogues are fun to share and talk about too.

What if they always want to read the same book?

- Repeated reading of books is beneficial for children. It helps them memorise parts of stories, words and phrases too.
- Knowing a book or poem by heart is fun and powerful for children, they can 'read' the story with you, or join in with words or phrases.
- You could offer another book alongside the much-loved favourite.

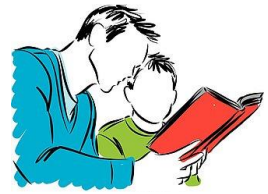
Before reading

- If it is the first time your child has read the book, look at the cover and title with them and predict what the book might be about.
- Make links to other books that children might have read. If the book is about football think about other football books they might have read.
- Give them some time to flick through the book and read the blurb.

During reading

For children who are still learning to read (decoding):

- Encourage children to track the words with their finger if needed.
- Help your child to sound out the word.
- Ask them the meaning of any challenging words and tell them the meaning if they do not know.
- Encourage them to re-read a word that they have mispronounced by first pronouncing it correctly for them to copy.
- Rather than say 'no' if a child gets it wrong, allow them to correct themselves by helping them with a few letters.
- If they really cannot read the word, read it for them and move on.



For children who can read:

Retrieve information

- Monitor your child's comprehension- do they understand what they have read?
- Ask them a question that they can find in the text.
- Encourage them to scan for key words.

Infer meaning

- Is there a hidden clue in the text? For example, 'her mouth dropped open'- What could that suggest about her emotions?

Predict what might happen

- Is there a problem arising that might need solving?
- Can we guess if the character will be a hero or a villain?
- Ask, 'what do you think will happen next'?

Reading Comprehension Strategies

<p>Re-read the Text</p> <p>more information = more understanding</p>	<p>Activate Prior Knowledge</p> <p>what do I already know about this?</p>	<p>Use Context Clues</p>
<p>Infer Meaning</p> <p>read between the lines</p>	<p>Think Aloud</p> <p>talk through it</p>	<p>Summarize the Story</p> <p>Characters ↳ Setting ↳ Problem ↳ Solution</p>
<p>Locate Key Words</p>	<p>Make Predictions</p> <p>think → pair → share</p>	<p>Use Word Attack Strategies</p> <p>rereading</p> <p>re · read · ing (prefix) (root) (suffix)</p>
<p>Visualize</p>	<p>Use Graphic Organizers</p>	<p>Evaluate Understanding</p> <p>what did I learn?</p>

After reading

Ask your child questions to check they have understood the book. These questions might start with, 'who, what, why, when or how?'

All readers make mistakes. This is how we learn. Encourage a growth mindset with your child by praising them for recognising their mistakes and trying to fix them.