

# Reading Workshop

Children who read well, do well

Mount Pleasant Primary School

February 2015



**“It’s called ‘reading’. It’s how people  
install new software into their brains”**

21<sup>st</sup> Century children have so many more ways to occupy every waking hour, that reading has become more of a second thought than a first choice. Together we can try to redress the balance.

# Why is reading important?

- Reading to pre-school/young children is the single most important activity for building the knowledge needed for eventual success in reading.  
*Huebner, Adams, Whitehurst 2006*
- Shared story book reading promotes later academic performance, reading fluency and print knowledge.
- Pupil achievement clearly improves in schools where parental involvement was judged outstanding  
*OFSTED 2011*
- Spending time together sharing books improves family relationships.  
*Desforges and Abouchaar for DFES 2003*
- Each year thousands of children ring Childline asking to be read a bedtime story.  
*Childline 2009*
- Some researchers suggest beginning readers need to read 600-1000 words a week to become competent readers.  
*Arlington et al 2008*

## READING IS SUCCEEDING

Studies show that reading a variety of literature independently by the age of 15 is the single biggest indicator of future success, outweighing negative factors such as socio-economic background or family situation.

**BUT:**

Fewer than half of 8 to 16 year olds have read a book in the last month.

49% of children and young people think that reading is boring.

22% of children report that no one at home encourages them to read.

1 child in 3 does not own a book.

## What do we do to teach your child to read and to love it?

- Read and share books with all children from 3-11.
- Have classrooms full of books and lots of other reading materials.
- Follow a reading curriculum with books at the centre of our teaching and learning.
- Share books children bring from home.
- Read 1:1 with early and developing readers at least once per week.
- Reading Recovery and Reading Buddies.
- Teach phonics as long as children need it to help them with reading.
- Teach children to read words on sight.
- Always encourage children to use illustrations, photographs and diagrams to give clues and to add more detail to reading.

## What do we do to teach your child to read and to love it?

- Arm the children with a variety of skills which they can use to read words fluently.
- Encourage children to read with expression.
- Teach reading comprehension in formal English lessons; in reading conferences; in 1:1 reading; when sharing books in story time and in other lessons across the curriculum.
- Link what has been read to the children's life and experiences.
- Send library books home.
- Visit the local libraries.
- Take part in local reading competitions.
- Have reading celebration days.
- Use a phonic-based reading scheme which develops into a stimulating, varied and challenging range of books.

## What do we do to teach your child to read and to love it?

- Have an “Elite” reading book selection for our most talented readers.
- We praise our children and always find something good to say whilst guiding children to improve.
- Encourage reading to be a regular home learning activity.
- Teach children to use research skills to find out about things that interest them.
- Become critical readers who can discuss a variety of books and authors.
- Confidently read to themselves and share books with each other.
- Choose to read from our book boxes outside in break times.
- **Encourage our children to read for pleasure.**

Comments about reading:

I can't help you - you have to work it out for yourself.

This book is too easy for you.

I think you need to read the next stage now.

I covered up the pictures because she was cheating.

He can read the whole book with his eyes closed!

Hurry up, I have to watch Coronation Street/Let's read for an hour.

You got lots of words wrong/No that's wrong!

You have read it once, you can't read it again.

That isn't reading, you are just making it up by looking at the pictures.

# Key elements of reading:



## Reading with your child:

I can break the code and read words carefully, understanding what they mean.



I can find answers in the text.



I can use clues in the text to read between the lines and discover even more information!



I can talk about how the text has been put together and organised!

The car crept along the road.  
“There is too much traffic!” said Gran.

“What shall we get Dad?” said Biff.  
“An electric drill?” said Chip.



## *How you can help your child to read?*

1. Make reading a special activity – cosy, warm, quiet, comfortable, not too late, not when they are not in the mood – choose your battles!
2. Share books, even with your older children – take it in turns to read, talk about what you have both read.
3. Praise your child even if they have struggled.
4. Ask them how they think that they can fix-it if they are stuck.
5. Don't let them struggle for a long time.
6. Let your child see you reading.
7. Read comics, magazines, poems, stories, non-fiction (boy-friendly), newspapers.
8. Write in the home-school journal-whatever they have read.
9. Help them to use phonics, read sight words without building, pictures, learn new vocabulary, identify punctuation, add expression, say the first sound then read on, talk about what they have read, predict what might happen, identify text features, ask questions.
10. Join the library, browse in a bookshop.
11. Log onto [www.oxfordowl.co.uk](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk).

So please, OH PLEASE, we beg, we pray,  
go throw your TV set away. And in its  
place you can install, a lovely bookshelf  
on the wall.

Written by Roald Dahl.

Thank you for coming to our reading  
workshop. If you would like any more help or  
advice or even to share something you have  
done that has worked, drop a note into Mrs  
Grinsell and she will get back to you as soon  
as she can.

