

Reading at home with your child

Our top tips are:

- ✚ Make reading part of your daily routine by picking a regular time to read each day: for example, when we are ready for bed we have reading time- you read from your reading book to me and then I'll read to you.
- ✚ Take the pressure off a bit: If you're struggling to read today you could: be word hunters - as them to spot a certain letter/word on the page as fast as they can and point to it
- ✚ Take it in turns to read a line / sentence - when it's your turn put expression into it and make it sound fun, model 'sounding out' words and being pleased with yourself when you get it right!
- ✚ Choose a book they've read before and read from this one instead
- ✚ Choose an easier book that you know your child can read and have them read it to a younger sibling / pet / teddy
- ✚ Read to them and ask questions about the story so they're still engaging from the text without actually having to decode the words themselves
- ✚ Make sure the book they are reading is engaging to them: do talk to your child's class teacher if they have a strong reading preference and they'll do their best to help support your child when they are selecting reading books.
- ✚ Make the experience as fun/ cosy as possible: read in bed or a comfy chair and make sure that for ten minutes or so they have your undivided attention (even if this means tele time for other siblings in another room).
- ✚ Get excited about the book they've got.
- ✚ Talk about the pictures too -do this before starting to read the words.
- ✚ Get excited about the words they get right - 'well done, you sounded it out / you blended it and got the word right / you didn't even know that word last week and now you've got it!' They want to impress you.
- ✚ Don't worry about what they're not getting right so much. It's ok to say 'try again / you got these sounds right but try this one again / I'll read this word as it's tricky / you do the start sound and I'll do the rest.'
- ✚ Share their achievements with the rest of the family so they know how proud of them you are
- ✚ Don't stop reading stories to them even when they're reading themselves
- ✚ Come into school and ask your child's class teacher for help if you need it: we love reading and want to share that love with you and your child. We know it's sometimes hard and we have lots of ideas and support to offer if/ when it gets tricky.