

How can you help your child at home?

Please encourage your child to:

- Read as widely as possible and discuss the content and style of the book. They need to be able to discuss their reasons for choosing the book and give their opinion on it.
- Ask questions about the content, main characters/setting of the story and discuss why they think the character behaved in a particular way/why something happened.
- Discuss how the character is feeling and how they know this.
- Make predictions about what is going to happen.
- Use correct book terminology e.g. author, illustrator, publisher, title, fiction, non-fiction.
- Work out unfamiliar words by sounding them out, using clues from other words in the sentence to make a sensible guess, looking at the picture for clues.
- Pay attention to punctuation and read for meaning.
- Stop and correct them if the reading does not make sense.
- Use intonation and expression when reading.
- Read non-fiction books using content and index to locate information.
- Discuss the layout of the book, position and purpose of the pictures. What difference do the pictures make to the story and to the child's level of understanding?

Further tips for sharing books can be found in your child's home reading record book.

Questions to ask your child:

- How did you work out that word? Can you sound the word out? Why did you choose to use that word instead? What do you have to do when you come to a full stop?
- What happened in the story? What were the main events? How did the character behave when...? What have you found out after reading the book? Can you find the bit that tells you....?
- What do you think will happen next? What are the most important pieces of information and why? Why do you think the character did that?
- How do I find out about...? What does an index/ glossary/ contents do? How do you use these? Why are there two kinds of pictures/ photographs etc?
- Why did the author write that? What do you think he/ she meant by that? Which word makes you think that...? How does the story make you feel? Why do you think that part is repeated? What effect does the rhyme have on...?
- What you like/ dislike about the story and why? Which was the best/ funniest/ saddest part etc? What is the main purpose of the text? What do you think the writer felt about...? When the writer says... how does that make you feel?
- Does this book remind you of another that you have read? If so, which one and why? Do you know any other books by the same author? What other books can you think of that have the same setting or message?

Reading Key Stage 1



Mersey Vale
Primary School

At Mersey Vale we aim to develop children's ability to speak, listen, read and write clearly and expressively with confidence, independence and enthusiasm.



Parents and Carers,

At Mersey Vale Primary School, we consider reading to be of great importance and the key to all other aspects of learning as it impacts on everything a child does.

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

- daily phonics lessons
- independent reading
- guided reading (Teacher working with a group to develop particular reading skills)
- shared text work in English lessons
- comprehension
- research (using ICT/ reference books)
- group reading (sharing a text with other children.

Some of these may happen in the English/ Guided Reading session but equally, the children may have these opportunities through any of the other subjects.

This leaflet is designed to help you, help your child at home. You may find it useful for homework.

If you would like any further help with your child's reading please make a note of it in their home reading record book.



Guided Reading

Each week the children work with the teacher on a Guided Reading activity. This is a planned lesson giving the teacher opportunity to teach or practise the relevant reading skills for your child's ability. We use this session to teach different reading strategies, hear your child individually and ask questions to ensure their understanding of the text. In school, we use the Book Band system so the books are colour banded with books on a similar level. Within each band, there are books from a wide range of reading schemes and 'real books'.



Library Books

Your child is encouraged to choose their own library book. These books are not levelled and may be much harder than your child is able to tackle independently. Please share this book together.



Home Readers

Each week your child will come home with a reading book. In Key Stage One, this will generally be another book on the same level. Your child will choose this book themselves. Please encourage your child to read this book to you (several times if necessary) until they are familiar with the words and demonstrate a good level of understanding. Always encourage your child to stop if what they have read does not make sense and have another go.

Each of the home reader record books have information to help you know what questions you can ask your child to assess their understanding of the text

Please make a comment in your child's home reading record book and record the number of days read. Your child will receive stickers for reaching different stages and add a sticker to the readometer chart in their class.

Key Words

Each week words are sent home for you to help your child learn to read. We continue to do this until they are able to read the first 100 most common words independently.

