



2nd February 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Supporting your child at home with reading**

Thank you for your ongoing support in reading regularly with your child at home. Reading is a life skill and is central to all learning and at Hook we believe reading is a vital and pleasurable activity for all children. We ask that, to help your child, you read with them, as a minimum, four times a week for twenty minutes, helping them to record their reading in their white books. Teachers use this information to support choice of texts for children and to direct support and the teaching of reading appropriately in class.

*Children who read for an average of twenty minutes a day are exposed to 1.8 million words a year compared with children who only read on average of one minute a day (reading only 8,000 words a year). Reading is consistently linked to good outcomes in employment, happiness and social skills. (Considine, 2017)*

### **Helping your child to choose a great read:**

- Talk to your child about what they are reading and if they like or do not like it and why
- Try a new book yourself and talk about what you like/dislike about it
- Aim for a book where there are approximately 1 in 10 words they don't know or have to think about – even for free readers, it is important to still encounter and have to puzzle out new words
- Visit the school or public library with them and browse together, reading the blurb on the back and checking out the covers
- Ask what their friends are reading
- Audio books can be a good choice on long journeys or if children are tired – they will still develop the patterns of language and vocabulary
- Check out the book lists available from the school website or the local library
- Read parts of books together, either to your child or taking turns

If you have any worries, talk to your class teacher for recommendations

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## **Questions to ask while reading:**

The National Curriculum focuses on reading for pleasure, developing a breadth of reading texts and also key comprehension based skills. Although you may expect that the main skills of reading are to recall the text, make predictions and understand the meaning of the words, you may be surprised to know that the three main skills which the curriculum and recent SATS papers have concentrated on are detailed below. In lessons, learning in reading focuses upon these key skills. You can also use these questions to further promote and embed important reading skills when you support your child with reading at home.

### **READING SKILL - Give/explain the meaning of words in context**

- What does this...word/phrase/ sentences tell you about the character/setting/mood?
- In the story .... is mentioned a lot – why?
- The writer uses words like .....to describe....what does it tell you about the character or setting?
- What other words or phrases could the author have used?
- How do the words/phrases the author chooses make you feel?
- How has the writer made the character feel?

### **READING SKILL - Retrieve/record information/identify key details from fiction and non-fiction**

- Where does the story take place?
- When does the story take place?
- Who was it/she?
- What did they look like?
- Where in the book would you find...?
- What happened in the story?
- What might this mean?
- Which part of the story describes the setting?
- Which part did you like best and why?
- What evidence do you have to justify your thoughts?

### **READING SKILL - Make inferences from the text and explain with evidence**

- What makes you think that?
- Which words give you that impression?
- Can you explain why...?
- I wonder what the writer intended by...?
- I wonder why they decided to....?
- Why did the character act like that?
- Why did they feel like that?
- What do you think the character was feeling?
- What evidence can you find to support your views?

## **Free readers**

If your child has reached the stage of free reader and is able to choose any book to read, reading development does not stop – as is the case for adult readers. The key reading skills are relevant to them when reading a wider genre of books as well as books of greater depth and complexity. Learning in wider reading is a valuable life skill and we would ask you to still support and read with your child at home, especially to develop new vocabulary and a deeper understanding of literacy.

## **Reading volunteers**

We are always looking for volunteers to help read in school as this provides a crucial adult role to support the development of reading. If you would be able to donate a small amount of your time each week to help with this valuable and rewarding experience please let the office know.

Yours sincerely

*N. Stephens*

Mrs Stephens  
English Leader