



Springwood Heath Primary School



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Dear Parents/Carers,

We are pleased to share the following information based on an important document from the DFE (Department for Education) called 'The Reading Framework. Teaching the Foundations of Literacy 2021,' and to provide you with information about our own reading for pleasure initiative at school.

CRASH: Cool Readers at Springwood Heath is the name we give to all of our reading for pleasure activities across the school. We hope that as parents/carers of children you are aware of the many things we do within school to promote reading for enjoyment.

The two aspects of reading – learning to read and enjoying reading- are fundamental to life at Springwood Heath. We believe that every child- who is capable - should learn to read and learn to love to read.

There is an abundance of research and documentation published that proves reading for pleasure is more influential on a child's future than their socio-economic background; reading is the most important thing that families can do with their children in order to support and develop their education.

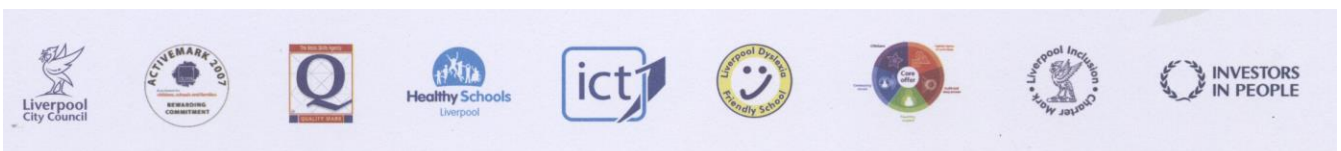
Reading at Home

Children benefit hugely from listening to family members reading aloud to them. It is a huge part of their reading development. Children learn to focus and share the enjoyment of the story; they learn how stories start and finish, and how a plot unravels and is resolved; they learn that books can transport them elsewhere.

If your child is working on our school phonics programme – Read, Write, Inc. they will bring home two reading books each week. One is for your child to read to you and the other – their reading for pleasure book- is for you to please read with your child and talk about together. Please ask a member of staff in class if you require more information about the books your child brings home.

ALL children should bring home a reading for pleasure book (own choice) each week.

Book-related talk introduces children to language that they might not hear in ordinary conversation, especially the vocabulary of the book itself. This primes them to understand what they read later, in their leisure reading and across the curriculum.



How you can help

1. Encourage your child to read

Reading helps your child's wellbeing, develops imagination and has educational benefits too. Just a few minutes a day can have a big impact on children of all ages.

2. Read aloud regularly

Try to read to your child every day. It's a special time to snuggle up and enjoy a story. Stories matter and children love re-reading them and poring over the pictures. Try adding funny voices to bring characters to life.

3. Encourage reading choice

Give children lots of opportunities to read different things in their own time - it doesn't just have to be books. There's fiction, non-fiction, poetry, comics, magazines, recipes and much more. Try leaving interesting reading material in different places around the home and see who picks it up.

4. Read together

Choose a favourite time to read together as a family and enjoy it. This might be everyone reading the same book together, reading different things at the same time, or getting your children to read to each other. This time spent reading together can be relaxing for all.

5. Create a comfortable environment

Make a calm, comfortable place for your family to relax and read independently - or together.

6. Make use of your local library

Local libraries also offer brilliant online materials, including audiobooks and e-books to borrow.

7. Talk about books

This is a great way to make connections, develop understanding and make reading even more enjoyable. Start by discussing the front cover and talking about what it reveals and suggests the book could be about. Then talk about what you've been reading and share ideas. You could discuss something that happened that surprised you or something new that you found out. You could talk about how the book makes you feel and whether it reminds you of anything.

8. Bring reading to life

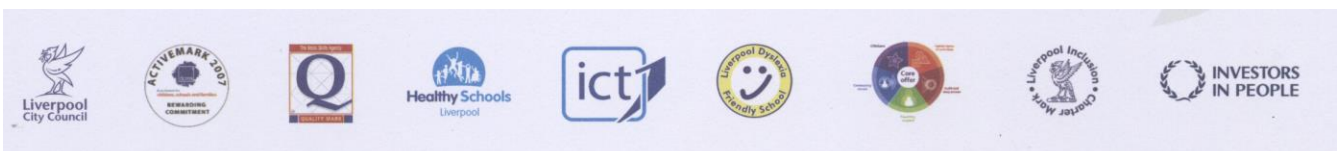
You could try cooking a recipe you've read together. Would you recommend it to a friend? Alternatively, play a game where you pretend to be the characters in a book, or discuss an interesting article you've read.

9. Make reading active

Play games that involve making connections between pictures, objects and words, such as reading about an object and finding similar things in your home. You could organise treasure hunts related to what you're reading. Try creating your child's very own book by using photos from your day and adding captions.

10. Engage your child in reading in a way that suits them

You know your child best and you'll know the best times for your child to read. If they have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) then short, creative activities may be the way to get them most interested. If English is an additional language, encourage reading in a child's first language, as well as in English. What matters most is that they enjoy it.



Further Guidance

On the first reading:

- Make reading aloud feel like a treat. Make it a special quiet time and cuddle up so you can both see the book.
 - Show curiosity about what you're going to read: 'This book looks interesting. It's about an angry child. I wonder how angry he gets...'
 - Read through the whole story the first time without stopping too much. Let the story weave its own magic.
 - Read with enjoyment. If you're not enjoying it, your child won't.
- Read favourite stories over and over again.

On later readings:

- Let your child pause, think about and comment on the pictures.
- If you think your child did not understand something, try to explain: 'Oh! I think what's happening here is that...'
- Chat about the story and pictures: 'I wonder why she did that?'; 'Oh no, I hope she's not going to...'; 'I wouldn't have done that, would you?'
- Link the stories to your own family experiences: 'This reminds me of when ...'
- Link stories to others that your child knows: 'Ah! Do you remember the dragon in? Do you remember what happened to him?'
- Encourage your child to join in with the bits they know.

Please encourage your child to read their school home reading books at home. Although we have a wealth of traditional and newly released books, that reflect the world in which our children live, and/or open up world of imagination, please feel free to encourage your child to read books from home or the local library if they prefer.

Spending a long time recording your child's reading is not necessary. Please just encourage them to read and, if possible, just an acknowledgement in their home reading log each week would be extremely beneficial for us to understand your child's reading journey.

With many thanks for your continued support with such an essential aspect of your child's development.

Alison Roberts-Mosaid (English and CRASH Lead) and Jenny Caddick (CRASH Lead)
May 2022

