

Reading at Brandesburton Primary School

We are often asked by parents for ways in which they can help to develop their child's reading skills.

Below, we have compiled some suggestions and hope these support you to encourage your child, whatever stage they are at.

To become efficient and effective readers, children need to develop skills in seven key areas.

Decoding: this is the skill that we are generally most familiar with, and deals with the varying strategies used by children to read the words on the page. Even fluent readers can be stumped by an unfamiliar word, and it is useful at these times to discuss the range of strategies used to make a sensible guess.

Retrieval and recall: early readers need to develop this skill, in order to locate important information and to retell stories and describe events.

Inference: reading between the lines. Encouraging children to make inferences based on clues in the text and their understanding of the context of the book will help them to develop this important skill.

Structure and organisation: as children read a wider range of text types, they need to be able to comment on the features of each and how they are organised. Discussing the presentation of the text, e.g. the use of subtitles to assist reading of a non-fiction text, and the author's reason for organising the text in this way will support children's development in this area. Making links between the purpose of the text and its organisation is a useful place to start.

Language: specifically, thinking about the language choices made by writers, their possible reasons for making those choices and the effect the choices have on the reader. Discussing alternative choices and their effects can be a good way to begin discussion about the author's language and an opportunity to develop vocabulary generally.

Purpose and viewpoint: Who is the narrator of this story? What does the writer of this biography feel about his/her subject? Children need to understand that writers write for a purpose, and to be able to recognise that this will have an impact on the way a text is written.

Making links: as adults, we are constantly making links between ideas and experiences. Good readers connect the book they are reading with real life experiences; with other books read and stories heard; with films; and with the context in which they were written.

Over the page you will find a selection of questions that we hope will be useful starting points to prompt discussion and thus develop these seven key areas. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or Mrs Altoft who is our English Leader.

Finally, THANK YOU! Thank you for your continued support in developing your child's reading. It really does make a difference!



QUESTIONS TO USE WHEN READING

- What is the title of the book?
- What kind of book is it? (Fiction, non fiction, poetry...)
- Who is the author/illustrator?
- Have you read any other books by the same author?
- What made you choose this book? (Author, cover, recommendation etc)
- Did you read the blurb before selecting the book?
- Could you tell anything about the book before you started reading it? What were the clues?
- Have you read this book before? Why have you chosen it again?



QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE YOUR CHILD CONTINUES READING THEIR BOOK...

- What has happened in the story so far?
- What do you think will happen next?
- What are the clues that make you think this?
- How would you like the story to end?
- Where is the story set? Is there a description?
- When is the story set? (Past, present, future)
- Who are the characters in the story? Who do you like/dislike? Why?
- Do you feel similar to any of the characters? Tell me what is similar?

QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN YOUR CHILD HAS FINISHED THEIR BOOK...

- Did you enjoy the book?
- Can you describe an exciting moment or favourite part of the story?
- Did you notice anything special about the way in which language is used in this book? (dialect, descriptive writing etc)
- Who was telling the story?
- Who was the most important character in the story?
- Do we get to know the characters quickly?
- Was the ending as you expected? Did you like it?
- Would you recommend this book to your friends?



Some useful websites:

www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk

–recommended reads for different ages

www.Wordsforlife.org.uk

–(Baby to 3, Age 3 to 5, Age 5-7, Age 7-11) How to help with reading at home, recommended books, activities and downloadable resources.