

Questions to ask when reading with your child:

- Why do you think the author wrote that?
- What do you think he/she meant by that?
- Which word makes you think that...?
- How do the story/words here make you feel?
- Why do you think that part is repeated?
- How did you know that was going to happen?
- Why are there two kinds of pictures/photographs etc?
- How do you use the glossary / index / contents page to find information?
- What do you like/dislike about the story? Why?
- Which was the best / funniest / saddest part of the story?
- What do you think the author 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?
- Who is the main character in the story – how do you know?
- What do you think is going to happen next? Why?
- Do you know any other books by the same author?

But most of all – enjoy listening to your child and sharing a book together.

What if my child struggles or is a reluctant reader?

Some children do not find reading easy. They struggle to read the words or to understand the meaning. Children develop at different rates and it may be that in time your child will become an accomplished reader. However, some children do have a problem and may need some special help and may need to use a structured phonics and reading programme. If you think your child has a problem discuss your concerns with the class teacher in the first instance. He/she will discuss the problem with the Year Group Leader and the special needs co-ordinator and a special programme will be drawn up to help your child. If your child is a reluctant reader the following may help:

- Try not to worry as your tensions will pass on to your child.
- Don't force your child to read – encourage.
- Be 'crafty' – ask them to read the recipe for something you're cooking or the football scores from the newspaper.
- Read to your child in a relaxed, cosy setting. Make it a pleasant, special, one to one experience if you can.
- Share books with them – you read a page, then ask your child to read a page.
- Allow your child to read books which are easy then gradually move to more challenging material when your child is ready.
- If your child has a busy social life allow him/her to read for 15 minutes before going to sleep.
- Let your child see you reading.

Reading Information for Parents



Inspire, Achieve,
Excel!

Parents and Carers

As a school we believe that reading opens the door to learning and to the wider world. It underpins everything we do and is essential to everyday life. In order to survive, we need to be able to read instructions, signs and safety information as well as reading for pleasure.

By the time children reach us here at Lowe's Wong most of them can read, many fluently. Our job is to further improve their reading skills. We will do this by offering a range of reading opportunities which may include:

- 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)
- Reading to an adult

Some of these may happen during English lessons / Guided Reading sessions, but equally, the children may have these opportunities through any of their other subjects.

This leaflet is designed to help you, help your child at home. If you would like further help with your child's reading please make a note of it in their Home School Diary.

What happens in School?

Guided Reading

Each week the children work with the teacher on a Guided Reading activity. This is a planned lesson giving the teacher an opportunity to teach or practice 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. We aim to ensure that children are able to use 'higher order reading skills'.

What are Higher Order Reading Skills?

Once children have a good knowledge of phonics and word building we move on to develop higher order reading skills. These are:

- **Inference** – something that is not explicit in the text but is inferred.
- **Deduction** – work out something from the clues in the text.
- **Authorial technique and intent** – what the author does to get his intended message across.
- **Skimming and scanning** – to read quickly to get an overview of the story or to look for particular points in the text.

Parent Readers

We are well supported by a number of parents, who with advice from our teaching staff, listen to children read at the start of the school day.

If you would be interested in supporting this initiative, please let your child's teacher know.

Library Books

Our library has a wide range of books that the children can borrow. The library is 'open' at lunchtimes and is run by the children for the children.

How can I help my child?

Children have very busy lives today and reading sometimes gets forgotten. However, even if children can read fluently, it is still important that they read regularly.

It is a great help if parents can encourage their children to read – even if it is only for 15 minutes a day – and discuss aspects of the book with them. Show children that you value reading, let them see your reading, share books with them. Encourage them to read from a variety of authors. Perhaps join the local library.

'School' Reading at Home

Each week we would encourage your child to read to an adult at least three times and for their Home School Diary to be signed. We also always ask you to encourage your child to read independently too.

