



Reading at South Wootton Infant School FAQs:



My child has come home with a book that only has pictures - how can this help him to read?

The Lilac level of book banded books are often picture only and these are designed to help develop some of the foundations for good reading later on. Some of the pre-reading skills that help to make learning to read easier and quicker are being familiar with story structure, character and setting, prediction, deduction and vocabulary development. Also knowing how to handle books is important and learning that we move through a book from front to back and left to right needs to be taught. Talk to your child about the book in any way you please. Ask them to spot things in the pictures; what do they think is happening, what might be going to happen next? Etc

How do I know if my child is reading the right level?

As a guide, children should be able to read 90-95% of the words in a book without help. However, the staff at South Wootton may have different reasons for the type/level of book your child brings home. Although the vocabulary may seem 'easy' the adult may feel your child needs to build some confidence before moving on to the next level or they need help in developing their comprehension and speaking and listening skills. Use the questions on your child's bookmark to help in this area.

Similarly, if your child is getting frustrated because they can not cope with the amount of text etc please let your child's class teacher know as this could put them off reading altogether.

My child is reluctant to read their school book, what shall I do?

Firstly, don't push it! It is important to find a time to read that suits you both. As soon as your child comes home from 6 hours of school might not be the best time for them, similarly, serving dinner might not be the best time for you either. Try to find 5/10 mins of quiet, relaxing time that you can share a book together. Show an interest in the book they have brought home. Ask them why they chose it. Flick through the pages first and talk about the pictures rather than going straight in for the reading. If they are still not keen to read their book encourage them to look at comics, magazines, board game instructions, shopping lists, football scores - anything that taps into their interests.

My child seems to be struggling with reading and I am worried they are behind the others in their class.

Children learn to read in different ways and at different speeds and it is important to remember that reading is not a race, The daily Storytime Phonics sessions in school (YR/Y1) will help your child to learn the sounds (phonemes) made by letters and letter combinations and what they look like on paper (graphemes). Some children will pick these up immediately and be able to blend them as words whereas some children need more time and reinforcement of the sessions, but they will all get there in their own time. The important thing is not to turn reading into a competition or an endurance test and never compare them with others (not easy I know).

How many books should my child be bringing home each week?

Your child has the chance to change their coloured book band books in the classroom twice a week and visit the library once a week. Due to Covid health and safety measures the books need to be quarantined once they return to school and this may mean that they come home with 1 or 2 colour banded books, depending on how many books are available at the time. We will be continuing with online access to a range of books and we will let you know about this soon. For now Oxford Owl have free ebooks you are able to access.

Each child is able to have 2 library books a week but as these are scanned out they will not be able to take out any new books until the previous books have been returned.

If you have any other concerns or questions regarding your child's reading contact your child's class teacher through Tapestry or email Mrs Burt (English Co-ordinator) via the school office.

