



## **READING AT HOME POLICY**

**Reviewed and Approved by:-**

**Date of meeting:- 14/07/2021**

**Signature:- Mrs Parker and Mr C Tolson**

**Position:- English Lead and Headteacher**

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## **Reading at home**

At The Academy at St James, our aim is to support children along their way to becoming lifelong readers. The purpose of this policy is to provide you with information which will enable you to support your child's reading at home.

Learning to read takes time. Decoding the text and being able to read the words on the page is only the first step. Children need time to understand what they are reading and to enjoy books. Given the time to learn at their pace, children will develop resilience as readers and develop the lifelong skills they need to make them confident in their reading abilities.

## **Expectations**

- Children should be read to every night by an adult
- Children should read aloud to an adult every day (20 minutes)
- Reading Journals should be completed every time your child reads
- Reading Journals and books should be brought into school daily and shown to your child's class teacher/support staff.

## **Reading Journals**

Reading Journals are a form of communication between parents and school. These should be updated every time your child reads. Make a note of the date, the title of the book and the number of pages read. They also provide an opportunity for parents to comment on their child's reading and enjoyment.

## **Benefits of Reading to you child**

Reading to your child helps to develop:

- A stronger relationship with you - instead of being seen as a chore or a task, reading is a nurturing activity that will bring the two of you closer together
- Academic excellence - studies have shown that students who are exposed to reading before school and in the early years are more likely to do well in all facets of formal education
- Basic speech skills
- The basics of how to read a book

- Better communication skills - by witnessing the interactions between the characters in the books you read, as well as the contact with you during story time, your child is gaining valuable communication skills
- Logical thinking skills
- Acclimation to new experiences. As your child approaches a major developmental milestone or a potentially stressful experience, sharing a relevant story is a great way to help ease the transition
- Enhanced concentration and discipline

### **Listening to your child read**

How to go about listening to your child read:

- Ideally, sit to the right of your child as this helps them to gain directional control and scan text from left to right
- If the book is familiar, your child should be reading at a good pace with fluency and expression. You might say, ‘Make it sound like your favourite book/a story you would love to listen to’. It is very important, whilst children are learning to read for them to reread books that they know as this helps develop fluency, confidence and expression
- If your child has a favourite book that they can read fluently, they could read this instead to help them to ‘warm up’ before reading their new book

### **For unfamiliar books:**

- Start by having a look through the book
- Discuss the pictures
- Ask what might happen in the story?
- Identify any tricky words
- Have a go at reading the book
- If your child gets stuck: Can they use the pictures to help? Ask them what would make sense? Sound out the word e.g. c – a – t. Break the word into smaller parts – in / side. If the word is hard – tell them the word
- Don’t correct every mistake but do make sure that what they are reading makes sense
- Use lots of praise to motivate your child
- If your child reads confidently with good pace and fluency, focus on developing comprehension skills

## Supporting early reading at home

### Questions to ask before reading:

- Can you point to the title? or What is this? (pointing to the title)
- What do you think this story might be about? What might happen in the story?
- What do we call the writing on the back of the book? (the blurb) or What does the blurb tell us?

### During the reading of the book:

- What is happening in the pictures?
- What has happened so far? Is it what you expected to happen?
- What might happen next?
- How will the story end?
- Could there be another adventure after this one? What might the character do next?
- What sort of character is...?
- How could you describe him? (e.g. friendly, kind, mean etc.) Why?

### At the end of the book:

- Did you like this book? Why? (Encourage your child to develop their opinion about books by encouraging them to explain their reasons.)
- What was your favourite part and why?
- What was the most exciting/interesting part of the book? Can you find it? Why have you picked this part?
- What sort of character was.....?
- Why did that character do....(give an event or action in the story)?
- What happened in the story?

## Supporting an independent reader at home

Independent readers still need your support to develop as readers. There are ways to support independent readers at home.

- Discuss books with your child – try reading the same book so you can talk about it.
- Ask your child to prepare a section to read aloud to you.
- Encourage your child to ask you if they come across new words.

## Foster a love of reading

- Read stories, poems and other texts aloud to your child.
- Let your child see you reading for purpose and pleasure.
- Visit the library / bookshops to choose their own books.

- Reading with siblings, older and younger.
- Use stories on CDs to follow.
- Follow your child's interests.
- Give reading a purpose - TV guide, recipes, game instructions, signs, catalogues...

As a school, we don't follow just one scheme of reading books. We try to pick the best from the different ranges on the market. Many of the books that the children bring home have pointers already inside the cover (front or back) to help get the most from the book.

Remember, we want children to develop a love of reading, so visit the library, read a range of books (not just school reading books) and read to your child.