

# Helping your child at home

## Asking Key Questions

Reading together and reading to your child at home is one of the most important ways in which you can support your child's development. It is the key to accessing learning and success. As you share books you are helping develop your child's reading skills and also showing them how important and enjoyable reading is.

### How can I make reading an enjoyable experience for my child?

Try to read for at least 5 to 10 minutes a day and over the weekend. Encourage it as a pleasurable experience. Find some time to talk about the book as well as reading it. Start with the title, look at the cover and briefly chat about what you might find inside. At the bottom of each page, encourage your child to predict what might happen next. Encourage your child to retell the story you have just shared. This will give you an idea of how much they have understood the story.

## Read a range of Literature

Encourage your child to read newspapers, TV guides, comics and magazines. Ask your child to find out information from Internet, cookery books, read road signs and information in the community.

Try and join your local Library! Your child will be able to take out a range of new published books. The Libraries often advertise for 'Book Awards too!'

## Key Questions to ask my child:

Did you enjoy that book? Why?  
Why not?  
Who was your favourite character? Why?  
Which part did you like the best? Why? Was there any part you didn't like? Would you choose this book/author again?  
What do you predict will happen next?

## Other Questions you may wish to ask:

Which part of the story did you like best? Why?  
What do you think will happen next? Would you like the character as a friend? Why?  
What do you think the character should have done when..?  
How do you think the story will end? ~  
Was the information detailed enough?  
What new facts have you learned? Would you read another by the same author?

*'The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.'* Dr Seuss

## Useful Websites:

[www.literacytrust.org.uk](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk)  
[www.familyreading.org.uk](http://www.familyreading.org.uk)  
[www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)  
[www.woodlandsjunior.kent.sch.uk/](http://www.woodlandsjunior.kent.sch.uk/)  
[www.readtogether.co.uk](http://www.readtogether.co.uk)



# WEST THORNTON PRIMARY ACADEMY

## A guide to reading with your child



## Reception and Key Stage One

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# Overview of Reading

In Early Years the children are taught the foundations to support them in learning how to read. Pupils are systematically taught the phonemes (sounds), how to blend the sounds all through the word for reading, and how to segment (break down) the phonemes (sounds) in order to write words. They are taught to use their phonic skills and knowledge as their first approach to reading, but are also taught high frequency words which do not completely follow the phonic rules.

## What is book banding?

At West Thornton Primary Academy from Reception through to Key Stage One we have adopted a book banding scheme which allows children to be supported by phonic based books, and real books alongside other genres.

All of our early reading books are colour banded. Your child will be given a colour band to choose their home reading book from which will help to ensure that the book they select is at about the right reading level for them.

Every colour band includes books from a range of reading schemes so that they will experience a range of stories, text types and illustrations.

The majority of books within the early bands can be decoded using phonics skills and knowledge – and the books are designed to enable the children to make links to their experiences as well as to adopt a rich understanding of language.

## How often will my child be read to at school?

In Reception and KS1, the children are read to twice a week. They will be read to by the teacher or the teaching assistant on a 1:1 basis and in a guided reading group. During the class teacher focuses with one small group and tailors the teaching to their needs. This is an opportunity for the teacher to hear readers, and teach reading skills (either decoding or comprehension as appropriate).

In Year 1 and Year 2, whilst a guided reading group or individual reading is taking place, the other children within the class will engage in independent learning activities, which may be reading based or linked to learning in other areas of the curriculum.

## Class Library Books

Your child will also be bringing home a library book from their classroom library. The children have the opportunity to choose a book that interests them. They take this book home over the week and are able to change this weekly.

## Reading Records

Each week your child will bring home a yellow reading record. Within this record you will find the books that your child has read with their class teacher and the teacher's comment against the reading session. Please read with your child at home and share the books that they bring from home from school as this will support their reading acquisition. Please leave a comment in their yellow reading record, or initial it to inform your child's teacher that you have read or shared the book with your child.

# Book Banding

Band	Colour	Label	Year Group
0	lilac		Reception
1	pink		
2	red		
3	yellow		
4	blue		One
5	green		
6	orange		
7	turquoise		

The book banded system which we use is based upon different colour schemes. We use a combination of real books as well as phonic led books. Please see above grid.

The children move from lilac books all the way through to red or yellow. This is where they can begin to read simple sentences and be able to answer 'how' and 'why' questions.

Some of the publishers in our range are: Big Cat Collins, Rigby Star, Pearson as well as the Oxford Reading Tree.

