



Helping your child learn.

A guide to supporting your child

Why do I need to help my child with reading?

The move from primary to secondary is an exciting time for parents and children, however we appreciate that you may worry about the extra demands of secondary school and wonder what you can do to help your child succeed.

One of the best ways to help your child achieve at school is to help them enjoy reading for pleasure: whether they like newspapers, magazines, noels or comics. Research shows that children who read for pleasure do better at school and also that parents play a key role in developing a love of reading.

RESEARCH FINDINGS: Reading means achieving!

Recent research into the reading skills of 15 year olds across the world found that children who are more interested in reading do better at school than children who don't read for pleasure. The study also found that parents who talk to their children about books, TV programmes and films help keep their children interested in reading.

Studies also suggest that having newspapers, books and magazines around at home also made a difference to how interested children were in reading.

Instant ideas for helping your child to love reading.

- Let your child choose what to read rather than choosing what you they should read.
- Encourage your child to read magazines, newspapers, comics and the internet as well as books.
- Talk to your child about books or magazines you haven't enjoyed as well as ones you did.
- Make time to read together.
- Buy books as presents. Remember many TV shows and films have book tie ins; there are also many books which link to computer games or music.
- Remember that reading is happening when your child is looking at bus timetables, menus, instructions, TV guides, the internet and Delete.

Preparing for reading at secondary school.

This time of the school year is a big time for your child! Some may be excited about the new challenges, others may feel worried about the possibilities of more difficult work.

It is possible to support your child by making them an 'expert' discussing all the things they already know.

QUICK IDEAS:

- Help your child find books they will enjoy by joining the public library.
- Read together. Try picking reading materials about interests or hobbies you share (like a football team or place you have visited together). 10 minutes a few times a week really will make an impact.
- Talk to your child about the types of reading they are expecting to do at secondary school. Ask them to explain what they already know about types of non-fiction writing (factual writing).
- Chat about which books or magazines your child might read to learn more about the subjects they will be studying.
- Buy a book, magazine or book token as a present or reward.

TRY MAKING TIME TO:

- Borrow picture books from the library in French to aid with language teaching at secondary school. Ask a librarian or bookseller about the Horrible Histories or Murderous Maths series or other funny books about school topics.
- Go online and look at sites which might be useful for different school subjects. BBC bitesize; www.pin.org.uk (Parents Information Network); www.parentsonline.gov.uk (Parents Online).
- Go along to a library event together, many libraries run a Summer Reading Challenge.

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