Ways that you can help your child with reading in Year 6

There are many different ways that you can still help your child with reading in Year 6. Here are some ideas that may help you in making your reading time with your child enjoyable and useful:

1. Read Regularly

Fluency is essential, and is often a key factor in holding children back from achieving their potential both with every day reading and also in timed test situations. Reading every day, even for just 10 minutes will help improve fluency. Try not to let days go by without reading at home. It goes without saying that children with good reading habits outside of school are much more likely to become strong readers.

If you would like to see the quantity of text that children are expected to read, understand and respond to in a typical SATS reading test, please collect a sample paper from Mrs Thorpe or Miss Hickson.

2. Talk to your child about their reading to ensure they understand

When reading with your child, either create your own questions, or use comprehension texts where questions are already provided that you can talk through with your child. Particularly useful areas to focus on are author's choice of language, e.g. what does the word "petrified" tell us about how George was feeling?, how does the author suggest that the wolf is a dangerous character? etc. Your class teacher will be able to provide you with as much or as little help as you would like.

Talk with your child about new or unfamiliar words, help them to broaden their vocabulary through reading.

Ask your child questions and encourage them to justify their answers with 'because...' reasons that come from the text, e.g. How did Jimmy feel about being in the treehouse? He was excited, because he thought he could follow his own rules now and not the house rules anymore. etc.

3. Listen to your child read aloud

Often at this age, many children read independently without adult input, but reading aloud is quite a defined skill and is particularly useful in transitioning into KS3. At least weekly, try

to find time to listen to you child reading aloud; help them with pronunciation, expression, fluency etc.

4. Read to your child

At this age, many children feel they are too old for a bedtime story – but this isn't true! Sharing a book together is perfect way to model good reading habits, model expressive, fluent reading and develop a love of reading. If your child is a reluctant reader, this may be a good way to overcome this barrier.

5. Help your child to find books that interest them

Try not to worry about a books being too young, or too easy for your child. It is more important that they are engaged and able to read with confidence. If you would like to find new books – have a look at the suggested reading list attached for ideas.

6. Sign their diary and engage in reading dialogue with the teacher

Your input and support with your child's reading is invaluable and by commenting in your child's diary you will be able to record your own observations but also respond to the teacher's comments and next steps. Parents sometimes feel it is unfair if their child is kept in at playtime when their diary is not signed – please support your child by ensuring their diary is signed and then your child will not lose any of their break time. This system is not designed to punish, but to encourage good habits with reading and develop organisation.

7. Come and see your child's class teacher

Please do not wait until parents evening if you are unsure of what to do or how to help. We recognise that many children in 5/6 leave school independently at the end of day and therefore there is less contact with the class teacher than in younger years. However, we are usually available at the end of the day or early in the morning for a chat, or alternatively please contact us via the school office and make an appointment at a time that suits you.

We are here to help and want to support you in helping your child to become a strong, fluent, confident and happy reader.