

Research in the United States, looking at the impact of home reading, focussed on how many words children would have heard by the time they were 5 years old:

- Never read to - 4,662 words;
- 1–2 times per week - 63,570 words;
- 3–5 times per week - 169,520 words;
- Daily - 296,660 words;
- five books a day - 1,483,300 words.

This shows why we need your support!



Dear parents and carers,

Reading is fundamental to education and at Meadgate Primary we encourage our pupils to have a love of language, books and reading from the very start of their journey here. This letter will help you understand how to support us so your child has the best possible reading experiences at school and at home.

**Your child will bring home two books.**

The one with a letter **a** sticker on the front is for your child to read to you. It has been carefully chosen so that they can work out all the words using the sounds they have been learning in school. The other book with a letter **b** sticker has some words your child may not be able to read yet. It is for you to read to your child and talk about together.

#### How to read a story to your child

You can use this guide for the **b** stickered books plus any picture books you have at home or books you borrow from the library. If you can find the time beforehand, read the read-aloud book to yourself first, so you can think about how you're going to read it to your child.

#### **On the first reading:**

- Make reading aloud feel like a treat. Make it a special quiet time and cuddle up so you can both see the book.
- Show curiosity about what you're going to read: 'This book looks interesting. It's about an angry child. I wonder how angry he gets...'
- Read through the whole story the first time without stopping too much. Let the story weave its own magic.
- Read with enjoyment. If you're not enjoying it, your child won't.

#### **On later readings:**

- Let your child pause, think about and comment on the pictures.
- If you think your child did not understand something, try to explain: 'Oh! I think what's happening here is that...'
- Chat about the story and pictures: 'I wonder why she did that?'; 'Oh no, I hope she's not going to...'; 'I wouldn't have done that, would you?'
- Link the stories to your own family experiences: 'This reminds me of when ...'
- Link stories to others that your child knows: 'Ah! Do you remember the dragon in ....? Do you remember what happened to him?'
- Encourage your child to join in with the bits they can read or know.



In school, your child's class teacher or LSA will make sure books are changed **once they have been read several times at home**. The book with a letter **a** sticker on the front will be carefully matched to ensure your child is practising phonic skills which have already been taught in class.

If you have any questions about reading, or would like some further support, do not hesitate to ask! Your child's class teacher will be very happy to help.

Ms Christina Pateman – English lead and KS2 lead

*C. D. Pateman*

Miss Megan Laurence – EYFS and KS1 lead

*M. Laurence*