

Holy Cross Catholic Primary School - A Reading Support Guide for Parents/Carers

At Holy Cross, we know how important it is for teachers and parents to work together to give your child the best start. Reading together at home is one of the easiest but most important ways in which you can help your child. As you share books, you are helping to improve your child's reading skills and also showing them how important and enjoyable reading is. We have a diverse range of books to support your child's reading within school and this will enable your child to experience a range of authors and styles of books including non-fiction and poetry.

Top Tips for Reading at Home

- Keep sessions short
- Keep sessions relaxed – find a comfortable place where you and your child can settle down
- Give lots of praise - progress may not always be fast. Children do not always find the skill of reading and understanding easy to grasp
- Talk about the book before you begin to read – look at the front cover and the pictures (if any) and ask your child to think about/predict what the book may be about
- Ask questions to check your child's understanding (see below for examples)
- Talk about the book afterwards – did your child enjoy it? Why? What was the best bit?
- If your child struggles over a particular word, try to find ways to help them remember it *e.g. by looking at the 'shape' of the word, or by guessing the word from the meaning of the sentence*
- Don't give up on the bedtime story, even if your child is a good reader. The more stories and books your child hears, the more they will want to read
- Be a good model for your children – let them see you reading – anything and everything – newspapers, magazines, catalogues, books etc. – let them know that reading is a valuable skill
- Telling them about a book or story you liked when you were a child. You may still be able to find a copy of it on the internet
- Making up a story or telling them about when you were a child or something that happened to you at school - remember you don't always need a book to tell a good story
- Taking it in turns to read parts of the story
- Telling them one thing you really enjoy about listening to them read

Which books are best?

- Books your child likes
- Books suggested by your child's teacher
- Never be afraid of re-reading books

What else can your child read?

- Comics or Magazines
- Instructions or recipes
- Information books
- Newspapers
- Poems
- Listen to audio books

Questions to ask your child when reading

Children's understanding of what they have read is the key to success and enjoyment of reading. Below are grouped questions under different themes that you may ask your child during/after they have read.

Vocabulary

- What do the words (quote from text) mean?
- Which word on this page means the same as....?
- What does the word....tell you about...?

Inference

- Why do you think... feels...?
- How did _____ react when....?
- How does the story show that....was clever/ sad/ angry/ happy etc.?

Predict

- Predict from the cover/ title/ blurb what you think will happen
- Can you predict how characters might behave from what they say and do and from their appearance?
- What might happen next and why do you think this?

Explain

- Does this story remind you of any others? Are there similar themes? (Naughty characters, castles, good characters)
- Can you explain what has happened/ what has been read to you?
- How has the author helped us to be able to read this book? (Structure and lay-out of non-fiction)

Retrieval

- What or Why did (character) do...?
- Where are/do...?
- Put these events from the story in the order that they happen...

Sequence (KS1) Summarise (KS2)

- Can you retell the story? (Sequence)
- What were the main events? (Sequence)
- Can you summarise the character in three words? (Summarise)