



Supporting your child's reading at home

13th March 2025

Mr Binns and Mrs Foxon





Today's session agenda:

- **Welcome and introductions**
 - **Why reading is so important**
 - **What we do to support reading at Corley**
 - **What you can do to help at home**
 - **Time for questions**
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WELCOME

- **Mr Binns:** Assistant Headteacher-Curriculum
Previously: Curriculum Lead for English and currently in advisory role
Currently: Senior English teacher and co-ordinates reading age data and maps progress 'on a page'
- **Mrs Foxon:** Assistant Headteacher- Teaching and Learning
 - Previously: Curriculum Lead for English
 - Currently: Fresh Start Reading Leader (Read, Write, Inc Phonics)



Why reading is so important



Why is reading so important?

1. Develops self-confidence and self-esteem
2. Access to more curriculum subjects
3. Boost employability and life skills
4. Builds connections between people
5. Develops vocabulary and communication skills



SCHOLASTIC
SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUBS

READING EVERY DAY...

...**CREATES** lifelong readers.

...**TEACHES** children to find adventure, ideas, and answers through books.

...**STRENGTHENS** relationships and creates memories as a family activity.

...**OPENS DOORS** through which children can learn about themselves.

...**BUILDS** a diverse vocabulary and strengthens fluency in reading.

...**ALLOWS** a child's imagination and creativity to blossom.

...**GIVES** children the tools needed to become successful students.

...**TAKES** the "scary" out of reading in the classroom.


...**HELPS** children make connections to new places, people, and concepts.

...**AWAKENS** children to the world around them.

READ
Every Day
Lead a Better
LIFE



What we do to support reading at Corley



Step 1: We look at the data and make it context-specific. What does this mean for your child?



“Reading frequency is also at a historic low, with 20.5% of eight- to 18-year-olds reporting reading daily in their free time, compared with 28% last year. The gender gap in reading enjoyment has widened, with 28.2% of boys aged eight to 18 now saying they enjoy reading in their free time, compared with 40.5% of girls.”

National Literacy Trust 2014

Children with access to 25+ books at home complete an average of 2 more years of school progress than those with no books at home.

A child spends 900 hours a year in school and 7800 hours at home.

Research shows that just 20 minutes of daily reading with a child helps them to develop critical reading skills.

Reading, language acquisition and retaining of vocabulary can pose its own set of challenges for autistic learners.



Step 2: We train our staff to be 'experts' in developing reading

1. All staff trained in 'Fresh Start'- Read, Write, Inc phonics for older students.
2. All staff trained in identifying and supporting Dyslexia within classrooms- National College.
3. Regular internal CPD and quality assurance directly linked to reading across the curriculum.
4. Reading Leader- K. Foxon- responsible and regularly kept up to date on phonics interventions.



Read Write Inc.
Fresh Start



The
National
College®



Step 3: We use a range of assessment tools- delivered with your child's needs in mind

1. **GL Assessment Dyslexia Screener**- all students in the school, including those with diagnosis of Dyslexia- are screened to encourage best practice and pinpoint needs.
2. **NFER Reading age testing**- half-termly (we do the online version).
3. **Fresh Start phonics** baseline assessment and re-assessment on a termly basis.





Step 4: Once needs identified, we address them with interventions and wider school reading celebrations...

Drop Everything
and Read and
Recommended
Reads

Giglets



Fresh Start
interventions



Celebration events
and visiting guests



Student voice-
Mentor rooms and
Library stocking

Library re-launch

Staff reading signs
and lunchtime
reading clubs
(coming soon!)

All teachers are
'teachers of
reading'



What you can do to help at home



“You are the glue”

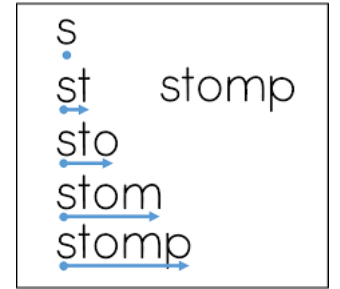
1. Find an uninterrupted ‘safe space’- think about **timing and environment**.
2. Seek support from Mr Binns, Mrs Foxon or Ms Kelly if you need support with finding the ‘right’ book or **increasing your number of books at home**. Help is available.
3. **Take turns** with your child- if they are insecure to start with, reading to them or sharing the reading is just as impactful.
4. During reading, encourage children to **use expression** when they are reading the words of different characters.
5. **Discuss the punctuation-** e.g. what do we do when we see a ? or !
6. Discuss any **alternative words-** where a writer has used ‘huge’, why did they not just write ‘very big’? Explore choices.





What you can do to help at home

7. Gently correct- use **modelling to chunk the sounds** and make yourself vulnerable (if you wish to) to show we are all on a learning journey with our reading.
8. Pause after each chapter or paragraph and ask your child if they can **re-tell the story in their own words** and take it further by seeing if they can make predictions.
9. Try to read for at least **20 minutes daily** but, with busy family life, aim for this length of session at least 3 times a week. DEAR sessions at school can support this- if you think your child would benefit, just contact us and we can arrange this.
10. After the reading session, talk about **what your child enjoyed about the reading today**. If they are not enjoying the book or you think it is too difficult, do not persist if it will upset them- keep the momentum and get in touch so we can help to find the perfect book.



5 ways for families to have fun reading at home

1

Be curious



Asking questions and talking about the book is a great way to form connections, develop understanding and make reading even more enjoyable. Start by discussing the front cover and what it suggests the book could be about. Then share ideas about what you've been reading. You could talk about the characters, something that has surprised you, what something reminds you of or how it made you feel.

You might ask questions like, "how did it make you feel when...", "why do you think this happened?", or "what do you think will happen next?" then give children plenty of time to think and respond.

Make sure you give your child the chance to ask questions too. Children, (and adults!), often enjoy reading the same book again and again – this provides an important opportunity for children to get to know the story well, develop confidence and increase comprehension and vocabulary.

2

Be playful



Start by making a calm and comfortable place for your family to relax and read independently or together. You might be reading the same book together, reading different things at the same time or getting your children to read together. This can be relaxing and fun for you all and just a few minutes each day can have a big impact on children of all ages. Be guided by your child and when you feel is the best time to read together – what matters most is that they enjoy it.

Why not try acting out your favourite parts of the story together, using different voices and dramatic actions. Have fun letting go!

Helping your child to see reading as play time rather than work time is one of the most powerful ways to help your child engage in books and become a lifelong reader.

3

Be creative



Bring reading to life by getting involved in some crafty activities related to the book. It provides the perfect opportunity to talk about the story you've been reading too.

Why not try drawing some of the characters or creating a picture to show a different setting. You could then use these to retell the story or make up your own version.

4

Be imaginative



Help engage your child in a way that suits them. This could mean creating treasure hunts that include finding similar objects that were in the book you shared, making a recipe that you read together or play a game where you pretend to be the characters in the book. Try using different voices, sound effects or actions as you read. If that all sounds too much, how about making a book tent with a blanket and some pegs – it could be a cave, a den or a castle depending on the story you are sharing.

Gift books as presents. Encourage book swaps between friends and family and encourage your child to always carry a book with them, so they are never bored! on the bus, while waiting for a sibling to do an activity, or when they need a bit of quiet in a busy household.

5

Be ready to read anywhere, anytime!

Reading isn't limited to storybooks! We are immersed in a world of print, which can be shared anywhere and at any time. Read yourself and help your child to join in, this could be anything, including...magazines, postcards, comic books, travel brochures, sports programmes, toy boxes, or labels on clothing and food. Local libraries are perfect for finding a rich and diverse mix of story and factual texts, as well as poetry and audiobooks.

20 is plenty!

Children who read for 20 minutes a day...

Will have a world of imagination & creativity opened to them

Will have better general knowledge

Will be exposed to 1.8 million words a year

Will improve critical thinking skills

Will improve their communication skills

Will have a broad vocabulary

Will have reduced stress levels

Will learn how to develop empathy

Will improve their test results





Further websites:



<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/activities/sharing-stories-together/>

Virtual School Library

<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/virtual-school-library/>

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/>

<https://www.badgerlearning.co.uk/reading-at-home-tips-free-pdf-download.html> - mz-expanded-view-1663623556288



Any questions?



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