



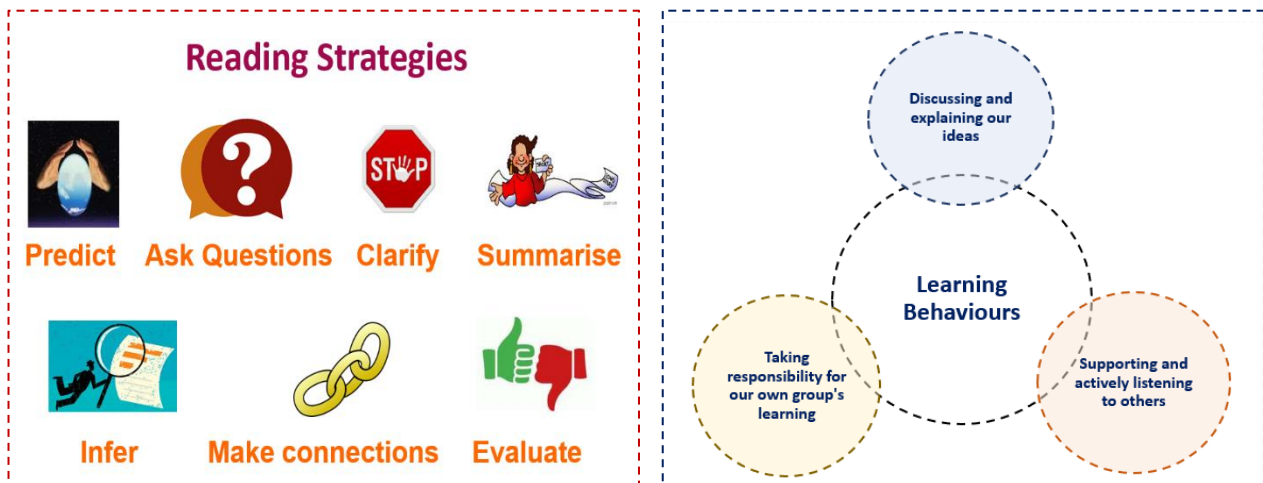
Dear Parents/ Carers,

We are writing to update you about the teaching and learning of reading in KS2 at the school and how you can further support your child at home.

### **Whole Class Reading**

We have recently tweaked our whole class reading approach in KS2 to make it even more effective. The approach focuses on:

- Key reading strategies which support comprehension
- Learning behaviours which support dialogue



There is a clear, consistent structure for daily reading lessons which encompasses the key principles of effective reading provision and fully meets the requirements of the National Curriculum. Children receive daily lessons incorporating whole class modelling prior to the children applying these skills through partner work and independent reading. Children deepen their understanding of the texts they read through the systematic use of a series of strategies and language stems. High quality discussions are at the heart of the approach. All children get the opportunity to analyse, discuss and respond to texts in a variety of ways. Through careful planning, we make sure that all children are exposed to a wide range of genres and text types. Lessons are engaging, with a big emphasis on fostering reading for pleasure and purpose.

### **Additional Reading Opportunities**

There are additional opportunities for targeted children to read 1:1 and in small groups with trained adults throughout the day. We also run “The Lightning Squad” reading tutoring programme where small groups of pupils work with a tutor every day to improve their reading skills, fluency, comprehension, spelling and phonics.

## Storytime

There is a designated additional story time at the end of the day which focuses on enjoyment and coverage of a wide range of texts. The books offer opportunities to learn from different perspectives and experiences with the aim to engage and reflect all children's backgrounds and cultures.

## Independent Reading

All children in KS2 should have an **Oxford Reading Tree Scheme (ORT)** book which matches their reading level. We have recently purchased more books, particularly within the higher levels, to ensure there is a broader choice within each level.

Children can also have another book of their choice from the library, classroom, or home to read at the same time.

## DEAR (Drop Everything And Read)

At least once a week, children have DEAR time for 30 minutes. The purpose is:

- To increase children's reading stamina
- For teachers to check and support good book choices, ensuring children are reading a book at the correct instructional level and from a range of genres
- For teachers to look at home-reading diaries and encourage children to comment on what they have read

Please ensure your child brings in their reading diary on the specified day (s) of the week.

## Supporting your child with reading at home

Although your child will be taught to read at school, you can have a huge impact on their reading journey by continuing their practice at home.

- **Encourage your child to read as often as possible**

We'd like children to **read five times a week** for at least **20 minutes** per day. Building this into your daily routine makes it a lot easier to sustain. It's important to make the environment conducive to concentration so choose a time of day which you can dedicate to reading, turn off all screens and phones and find somewhere comfortable they can enjoy the time. It's also valuable to listen to your child read aloud as it gives them a chance to practice reading with understanding and expression.

- **Reading to your child**

Your child gains so much from hearing you read a story to them, no matter how old they are. Listening to stories provides children with an understanding of how stories are structured, it develops their vocabulary, and it helps provide a context for meaning. Try to use different voices for different characters and use your tone of voice to add emotion such as excitement or fear. Older children love listening to stories as much as younger ones – one way of doing this is to share and take turns at reading a page or a chapter each.

- **Ask questions to support your child's understanding**

Children initially develop both fluency in reading and understanding of what they are reading alongside each other. This is where listening to stories can really support your child's understanding. You can read a book that may be above your child's current fluency level and he or she can still discuss the meaning behind the text. You can therefore ask much more complex questions compared to a book that your child has read themselves.

Once children are fluent readers, the focus shifts much more towards understanding. For children in KS2, therefore, the discussion around what they are reading becomes even more important. [Click here](#) (or open the attachment), to find a list of questions that you can use to open discussions when you or your child is reading at home. They are organised into the seven reading strategies we focus on in our whole class reading sessions. Please use your own judgement when choosing questions, considering the age/ reading ability of your child, as well as remembering we want to keep home reading sessions light and enjoyable!

### **Reading Records**

We use the Reading Records to keep a record of what your child is reading. Please encourage your child to write in their record, and support them if required, so we can see when and what they are reading at home. We love to see your comments about how they have got on if you have listened to them reading aloud or have asked them some questions about what they have read. Please keep doing this as often as time allows!

We look forward to catching up with you about your child's reading progress in our parent's evenings. Please do not hesitate to talk to your child's class teacher if you have any questions about your child's reading.

### **Book Recommendations**

The following websites suggest some excellent age-appropriate books which your children might like to read:

- [Centre For Literacy](#)
- [Reading lists for each year group](#)
- [Best new books](#)
- ["100 best books"](#)
- [Storysmith](#) bookshop on North Street offers a fantastic range of books and the staff are brilliant at recommending the best new books based on your child's interests
- [Bedminster Library](#) a great, and cost effective (!), way of viewing lots of new books and loaning them out to read

We hope you and your child enjoy reading together at home. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

The English Curriculum Team