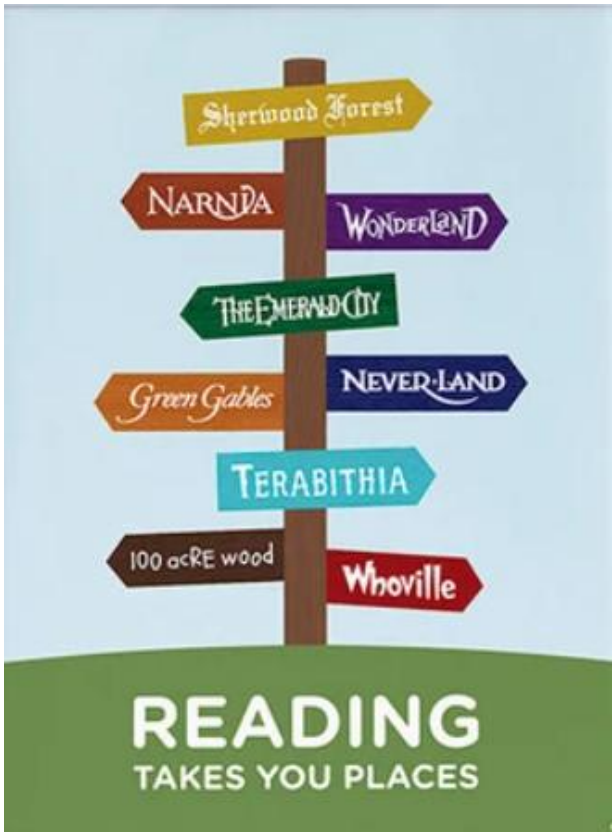


# Reading at Home

# A guide for Parents at Hardwick Primary School.

Reading is at the heart of everything we do at Hardwick Primary School. We have discussed how our parent community can continue the great work around this important area and have devised this booklet, including key strategies, to help you continue to read positively with your child and help foster a love of reading.

## HELPING YOUR CHILD READ A WORD…

• Which letter phonemes (sounds) do you recognise? Can you blend them together?
• Does the word make sense? Read the sentence again to check.
• Is there another word that would make sense?
• Is it a word you know?
• Have you read the word before? Is it on another page?
• Are there any bits of the word you recognise?
• Miss out the word, say 'mmmm', finish the sentence. Then go back and work out what the word was.
• In a rhyming book, think of a word that rhymes.
• Use the first 1 or 2 sounds with another strategy
• Always go back and read the sentence again!

AS THE CHILD BECOMES A MORE CONFIDENT READER:

It is still important to read with your child even when they have become a more confident reader.

CONTINUING TO SUPPORT AND GUIDE YOUR CHILD:

Do not worry if your child's reading is not word perfect. If they are making sense of the text, this does not matter e.g., "house" instead of "home", "Good dog, Spot" instead of "Good boy, Spot". It would matter, however, if they read: "He got on his house and rode away", as this would have changed the meaning. Always be ready to takeover if your child is struggling. With your help they will succeed and will want to read more and more as a result. You can try "I read you read" as a shared reading activity.

SUPPORTING THE CONFIDENT READER:

Confident readers have reached the stage where they no longer wish to read to an adult and want to read silently to themselves. The interaction between the parent and child changes at this stage. To ensure that the child's reading development continues to move forward, we would encourage parents to question the child about what they are reading, at an appropriate time, to extend their reading and share their enjoyment of the book

## The following questions will provide ideas that you can extend to suit individual needs.

### Questions to ask…

What is the title of the book?
What kind of book is it? (Fiction, non-fiction, poetry, short story etc)
Who is the author/illustrator?
Have you read any other books by the same author?
What made you choose this book?
(Author, cover, illustration, recommendation etc)
Did you read the blurb before selecting the book?
Could you tell anything about the book before you started reading it?
What were the clues?
Have you read this book before? Why have you chosen it again?

### Questions to ask before your child begins, resumes or during their book…

What has happened so far?
What do you think will happen next?
What do you think about…?
What do you think that word means?
What are the clues that make you think this?
How would you like the story to end?
Are you involved in the story? Why?
Where is the story set? Is there a description?
When is the story set? (Past, present, future)
Who are the characters in the story?
Who do you like/dislike? and Why?
Do you feel similar to any of the characters? Tell me what is similar?

## Questions to ask when your child has finished their book…

Was the book as you expected?
Was there anything you disliked about the story?
At what point did you decide you liked/disliked the story?
If you have read this book before, did you enjoy it more this time?
Did you notice anything special about the way language is used in this book? (dialect, descriptive writing etc)
If you had written this book, how would you have made it better?
Has anything that happens in this book ever happened to you?
Can you describe an exciting moment or favourite part of the story?
Is the story straightforward?
Is there more than one story happening at the same time?
Who was telling the story?
Was this the most important character in the story?
Do we get to know the characters quickly or do they build up slowly through the book?
Was the ending as you expected?
Did you like the way the story ended?
Do you like the illustrations? Do you have a favourite?
Would you recommend this book to your friends?
Tell me what you would say to a friend?

ADVICE IF READING BECOMES A CHALLENGE AT HOME:

We would like all of our children to enjoy reading rather than see it as an effort/hard work/something they don't enjoy.
Try to avoid confrontation
Offer alternative reading material, e.g. appropriate internet access, magazines, non – fiction etc…
Encourage reading at different times of the day or week
Buy/borrow books on tapes from the local library and then you can listen whilst in the car of before bed
Share reading activities and interact with the text together
Share the problem with your child's teacher, we are here to help!

Parents and carers must remember to sign their child's reading diary every week.

Reading to your child:

Remember that it is also important for children to be read to. There is almost universal agreement that listening to stories is 'good' for children who are learning to read. You can motivate your child to read by regularly sharing a book with them. Your child will sense your love of books, your enjoyment of a good story and your appreciation of good illustrations. With younger children it can be fun to read familiar stories together, pointing at the words and allowing children to enjoy the stories, join in with well-known stories and develop ideas of the relationship between sound and print. With children of any age, it will help to develop imagination and enrich vocabulary development.