

Why do you think he is angry?

What do you think will happen next?

Why did Dad change his mind in the end?

If your child stumbles over a word, the following strategies may help:

- you say all the sounds and let child try to hear the word
- look at the picture for clues;
- read the rest of the sentence and work out what would make sense

Commenting in Home Links book It helps us enormously if you write a brief comment in your child's Home Links book each time they read at home. We really value this method of communicating about your child's progress. What you write really depends on how the reading session went; you may want to just acknowledge your child's effort, raise a concern, share your pride in the progress you see or ask us a question. The following list of possible comments may be of use, but please write whatever you would like to!

- * _____ tried very hard tonight.
- * _____ was tired tonight so we just looked through the pictures and chatted about what was happening.
- * The word 'excited' caused some difficulty today but a great effort!
- * _____ enjoyed this story.
- * _____ managed to spot lots of words from his Word Wall in this book
- * _____ blended the sounds to read 'tent' all by herself.



Clover Hill



Primary School Reception



Helping your child with reading

We have produced this leaflet in response to a number of requests from parents over the years for advice about supporting their child with reading at home. We hope that you find it useful but please do not hesitate to come and see one of us if we can clarify anything or help further.

Phonics

What happens in school?

As you know, we have a daily phonics session in Reception which is a short, interactive lesson which the children always enjoy. In this lesson, we introduce new graphemes (written letters) and teach children the related phoneme (sound). We also teach the children how to blend these sounds together to read words and how to segment whole words into their sounds in order to spell them. All of this is done through games and songs.

How can I help at home?

- Work with your child to practise the graphemes we have taught during the week. These are sent home each Friday and also included on the letter is a list of suggested games and activities to help you do this.
- Go back over previously learned graphemes to ensure children still know them.
- Play games to improve children awareness of sounds and words such as I Spy and Robot Talk.

Reading

What happens at school?

Children are taught, and given the opportunity to practise, their developing reading skills throughout the school day. In addition to this, your child will regularly spend time reading individually with a teacher. During this session, we will talk about the title of the book; predict what

it might be about; encourage the children to use a range of strategies in order to make sense of the text; spot words from our Word Walls to read on sight; blend sounds together to read unfamiliar words; ask questions about events in the story / information in the text; encourage children to talk about related experiences they may have had, plus lots more!

How can I help at home?

There is not one correct way of reading with your child at home; this is intended as a guide from which you are welcome to take what suits you and your child. You know your child best and are well placed to decide the best time and frequency for reading practice.

- Aim to revisit each reading book a number of times during the week. This gives the children confidence and often enables them to spot new details in the pictures etc.
- Look at the title of the book and talk about what may happen in the story. Ask children if they think this might be a story book or an information book.
- Spot familiar words from Word Walls in the text and encourage children to read them on sight without blending the sounds together.
- Encourage children to blend the sounds in unfamiliar words in order to read them.
- Remind children to point to each word in the sentences as they read. Asking children to re-read the completed sentence / page faster once they have deciphered all the words is a great way of improving fluency and ensuring they maintain the gist of what they are reading.
- Talk about any new words you come across and ask questions to make sure they understand what is happening. Questions you could ask may include:

Do you know what a throne is?

Look at Kipper's face; how do you think he is feeling?