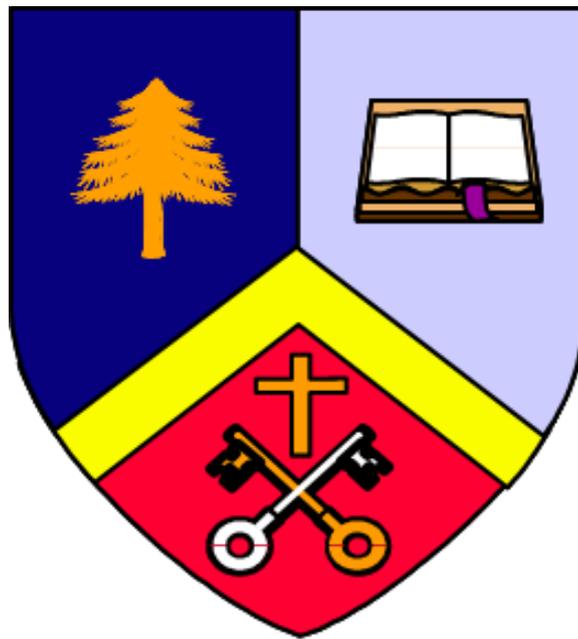


# Supporting your child with reading



At St Peter's, we know how important it is for teachers and parents to work together to give our children support in reading.

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.

In terms of reading, we want children to be able to:

- enjoy reading and see it as a pleasurable activity, as well as a means of following instructions and finding things out
- have the reading skills necessary to read a range of text types for pleasure and for information
- be confident and competent readers
- have access to a range of reading experiences

In school, your child will be presented with texts which are increasingly more difficult. In reading for pleasure, they should be choosing material which stretches their reading. This may mean that sometimes they do not fully understand all that they are reading. This is where your child will benefit from your support: you are in a position to help overcome any misunderstandings by talking about what they read to you and even read aloud to them. It is a good idea to share reading aloud as you can model pace, expression and fluency for your child.

We ask all our parents/carers to send their child's reading books in to school every day so that any adults in school can listen to your child read whenever possible.

On the subsequent pages are tips for reading at home, as well as some example questions you can ask your child before, during and after they have read.

## **Top Tips for Reading at Home**

- Keep sessions short
- Keep sessions relaxed – find a comfortable place where you and your child can settle down
- 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 or even guess what the book may be about.
- Ask questions to check your child’s understanding e.g. what might happen next? Why did something happen?
- 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, reminding them to use their phonics, 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.
- 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.

<p>Who was the character that...? Show me in the text where you found...? What is happening at this point/in this part of the story? Find one/two things that the main character did in this part of the story.</p>	<p>Why was...important in this story? Tell me/write about what sort of character/person... was from the things they did/said in the story. What do you think...thoughts were at this point in the story/play? Use the text to help you think through your answer.</p>
<p>How has the author used words/phrases to make this character funny/sad/adventurous/ clever/ frightening/excited/ disappointed, etc? Which part of the story best describes the setting/characters/ action? Which words and /or phrases do this? Find and copy some words or phrases that show us that this character is special/helpful/adventurous/unsure/ worried, etc.</p>	<p>If you were going to interview one of the characters, which questions would you ask and why? How did one of the characters change their ideas/ attitudes during the story/play? What was it that brought about this change? What do you think would have happened if...? Tell me about one important event that happened that could not be left out. Why is it so important? If...had not done..., how might this have changed other events in the story?</p>
<p>How did the story make you feel? Why did it make you feel like this? Why do you think the author chose this particular setting for this story? How has the author started this in an interesting way? How does this make the reader want to read on?</p>	<p>How has the author organised the writing? Why does the author begin a new paragraph here? What is/are the main event(s) that happen(s) in this/each paragraph?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Non fiction</b></p> <p>Where can you find an important piece of information about ...? Find two pieces of information that tell you about ...? What does this part of the text tell us about ....? Which part of the text tells us about ...? How does this text layout help the reader? How does (a diagram/picture/caption) help you to understand the information on this/these pages? What is the purpose of the list/diagram/caption/sub-headings in this text? Find something that is not a fact but the author's opinion.</p>	

