



Killigrew Primary School

## Kick back, Curl up and Read with your Kids!

*A guide for parents on the importance of reading with your child.*

### 1. Reading for pleasure

Research has found that reading can reduce stress, develop knowledge and vocabulary, improve memory, enhance focus and concentration and improve your mood.

Your child will bring home reading books to **read for pleasure**. These books will be carefully matched to your child's reading ability so they should be able to read them **without stopping to work out unknown words**.

*"But this book is too easy for my child."*

Try reading a book that you are even 90% confident with - can you understand or enjoy the excerpt?

*They sailed well and the old man ██████ his hands in the salt water and tried to keep his head clear. There were high ██████ clouds and enough ██████ above them so that the old man knew the ██████ would last all night. The old man looked at the fish ██████ to make sure it was true. It was an hour before the first ██████ hit him.*

*"My child has read this book before."*

Children benefit enormously from re-reading as they learn the rhyming or predictable pattern of the text. Research has shown that repeated reading of familiar stories can increase vocabulary by up to 40%.

*"My child is too old to be read to."*

We would strongly recommend that you find time to read aloud to your child whatever their age. Sharing a book with your older child can benefit them in many ways by:

- improving their vocabulary and comprehension
- developing their listening skills
- enabling them to discuss difficult issues through stories
- allowing them to be introduced to classic texts or different genres that they would find challenging to read themselves
- sparking curiosity and a thirst for learning
- helping them hear fluent reading – so they can understand the text in more depth
- creating a time where you can sit and enjoy each other's company in a busy world
- showing them that you love reading too!



## 2. Reading to learn

Your child will bring home reading books to support them in learning to read more effectively. These will be more challenging books. You will know they are the right level of challenge as your child will be able to read 80% of the words without your support. The other words you will discuss together.

Reading does not just mean that they can say the words that are on the page in the right order - it means reading fluently and with expression to ensure that they fully understand what they are reading.

To support your child in reading to learn, please listen to your child read daily.

*“My child doesn’t want to read to me.”*

We would suggest that you find a regular time in the day when your child can read aloud to you. Encourage them by reading a sentence and asking them to copy you. By hearing themselves as a fluent reader, children can break out of the mindset that every book is too challenging. Explain and enjoy tricky words. Build up a word bank of new and wonderful vocabulary!

Remind your child that reading aloud to a parent is homework set by the school.

*“My child doesn’t want me to read to them.”*

Perhaps you have not yet found the right text! Persevere! Reading aloud to your child helps them develop reading fluency and a wide and varied vocabulary. This is crucial for children to understand what they are reading and also for them to develop their writing technique. Did you know that reading also supports spelling? The more a child sees words, the more familiar they become. They know when a spelling ‘doesn’t look right.’

Help your child to learn to be a fluent reader by encouraging them to re-read sentences using a good speed, emphasising certain words and using expression to show meaning.

If you require any additional information or support with reading fluency, please speak to your child’s class teacher.

In a world where many children would rather grab an Xbox remote over a book, **we** must remember the importance of reading for their future. We must show how important books are to us!

“Children are made readers on the laps of their parents.” – **Emilie Buchwald**

“There are many little ways to enlarge your child’s world. Love of books is the best of all” – **Jacqueline Kennedy**

“If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales.” – **Albert Einstein**

“Books train your mind to imagination and to think big.” – **Taylor Swift**



Links to support information used in the making of this guide.

<https://theconversation.com/uk>

[www.readingrockets.org](http://www.readingrockets.org)

[www.shereads.com](http://www.shereads.com)

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