

Balliol Primary School



Helping Your Child with Reading

Why is it important for my child to read?

The ability to read is vital. It builds self-confidence and opens up future learning at school and in life. Just ten minutes of reading a day can make a huge difference on your child's reading!

How will my child learn to read?

Learning to read does not happen all at once. It involves a series of stages that lead, overtime, to independent reading and to fluency. The best time for children to start learning to read is when they are very young. This is when they are best able to start developing basic reading skills. At Balliol we teach the children to read using a phonic approach to begin with alongside learning to read some words on sight.

How can I help my child?

As a parent, you are your child's first and most important teacher. Reading aloud to children is the best way to get them interested in reading. Spending time with word games, stories and books will also help your child.

Tips for reading **any** book with your child

- **Set aside some time**
Find somewhere quiet without any distractions - turn off the TV/radio/computer.
- **Ask your child to choose a book**
Sharing books they have chosen shows you care what they think and that their opinion matters. This means they are more likely to engage with the book.
- **Sit close together**
Encourage your child to hold the book itself and/or turn the pages.
- **Point to the pictures**
If there are illustrations, relate them to something your child knows. Ask them to describe the characters or situation or what will happen next. Encourage them to tell you the story by looking at the pictures.
- **Encourage your child to talk about the book**
Talking about the characters and their dilemmas helps children understand relationships.

Supporting Reading at Home

When your child brings home their reading book

- Share the title and then discuss what the story may be about.
- Share the book encouraging your child to sound out unfamiliar words.
- Tell your child any word they are struggling with.
- Don't say the book is too easy or too hard (reading an easy book builds confidence!)
- Do write in the diary to tell us 'how' your child has read.
- Encourage your child to retell the story (to show their understanding)

Let your child know reading is important to you! Think of all the times in a day you use your reading skill!