

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. It is an essential life skill and empowers children to achieve their full potential.

Building reading stamina and enjoyment can really make a huge difference to 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 children at Balliol begin to learn to read using a phonics approach then as the children develop fluency, the focus moves to comprehension and reading for pleasure.

How can I help my child?

As a parent, you are your child's first and most important teacher. Reading aloud to children, *even as they become older*, is the best way to keep them interested in reading as well as developing a range of life long skills.

It is **still** very important to listen to and discuss their reading. We ask that you read with your child at least **3 times** a week for ideally **20 minutes** each time.

It is ideal to read at a time when you can both take time to relax, enjoy and discuss the story.



Games, videos and finding things to read at home

- ◆ Join a library or online library
- ◆ Ask friends for suggestions or even set up a book swap with friends
- ◆ Listen to audio books
- ◆ Many websites give recommendations for amazing, age-appropriate books e.g.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/>

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/pages/encouraging-reading>

<https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/browse-by-age>

- ◆ Online reading books

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/free-ebooks/>

- ◆ BBC Bitesize Reading videos

KS1 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zgkw2hv>

KS2 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zv48q6f>

- ◆ Home access to Espresso learning

<https://app.discoveryeducation.co.uk/learn/signin>

A wide range of video lessons and games. Log in and search or browse the subjects to find Espresso Phonics, Stories, Game Zone and much more.



Username: student4307

Password: espresso

Reading With Your Child



How to support your child at home



BPS

BALLIOL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Independent reading

Children will bring home a reading book of their choice within their 'points' range which is matched to their reading stage.

Tips for reading with your child at home

- Listen to them reading their school reading book as often as possible (ideally at least 3 times a week for 20 minutes each time)
- Share the title, chapter title, and blurb and discuss what the book (or chapter) might be about
- Encourage them to ask about and discuss unfamiliar vocabulary
- Help them decode (read) words if needed
- Comment in their reading record / planner to tell us 'how' your child has read and/or about your discussion of the text (example discussion questions can be found on the 'VIPERS' handout)

Extra things children can, and should read at home

- A wide variety of fiction texts of different genres from a range of authors
- Non-fiction texts
- Magazines
- Newspapers
- e-books
- Poetry



Some of their reading is likely to involve websites, blogs and other technology. Some of your child's reading may involve re-reading favourite texts.

Reading together

Reading to your child can give them opportunities to hear stories and language at a higher level than they may be able to read for themselves. Research shows that hearing texts read aloud develops language acquisition. It gives children an opportunity to hear what fluent, expressive reading sounds like and in turn develops their own fluency, expression and understanding.

Following along with your reading allows children the opportunity to hear and discuss whole texts, which helps them to develop reading preferences and opinions, as well as improving understanding of how texts fit together as a whole.

Reading together shows children the value of reading. It can also be relaxing and fun for adults and children alike.

Tips for sharing any book with your child

- Read to your child or read together for enjoyment
- Share a range of other texts including books
- **Set aside some time**

Find somewhere quiet without any distractions - turn off the TV/radio/computer.

- **Make explicit any thinking you are doing**
For example - Perhaps they are angry/sad because... This odd word starts with a capital so is a name... I wonder why this character said...

- **Talk about the book**
Talking about the characters and their dilemmas helps children understand relationships. Check the story is making sense to them.

Encouraging reluctant readers

- Let children choose the book they want to read, without us adults placing pressure on them to read something else more appropriate
- Find texts that might 'hook' them into reading – for example, books linked to a hobby of theirs, sports books, humorous or scary books, graphic novels or non-fiction
- Perhaps they are still finding reading tricky Why? What can be done to help?
- Sometimes it can be a simple matter of font or the look of a page that puts children off reading – many publishers have created texts specifically with this in mind (e.g. Barrington Stoke's 'superreadable' books)
- Children naturally copy modelled behaviours – show them how enjoyable reading can be – if you don't already, let them see you enjoying books
- Keep reading to your child – this can encourage a love of stories which can lead to reading more later



