



**TEWIN COWPER  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL  
VOLUNTARY AIDED**



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### **Reading for Pleasure**

Dear parents/carers,

I wanted to bring to your attention some information you may find helpful when encouraging your child to read for pleasure. Attached to this letter, you will find a list of 'free reading' titles organised by age group. This is just for your perusal but may also give you an idea of some unknown or well known titles that can encourage your child to read more.

Reading a wide range of material is really important for children's development. Not only does it help to improve a child's vocabulary and imagination, it also allows children to get a better idea of what types of books they enjoy and what they definitely do not. I have seen many people (children and adults) put off reading as they haven't found that one amazing book or genre that becomes their favourite.

Books can be pricey so I would also like to bring to your attention something called 'The 66 Book Club'. This is a warehouse in Hemel Hempstead that is filled with thousands of books for both adults and children. If a shop or website has surplus stock, it sends it to this warehouse which opens its doors one weekend every month for shoppers. Every title is 75% off the retail price. They have a massive range of children's books, many well known titles as well as lesser known. You pay £2 per household for a year's membership. For more information google '66 book club' or visit their Facebook page.

#### **Here are some tips that may help encourage reading at home:**

1. Beyond Books - reading material can also be found in magazines and newspapers aimed at different aged children. In addition, audio-books can be a great tool to allow children to delve in to different literary worlds without picking up a book. You can get free audio books through your Hertfordshire library membership by downloading the app 'Overdrive'.
2. Let children choose their book, encourage them to read the blurb, discuss what catches their eye in the book shop. Reading should be a choice, not a chore
3. Reading doesn't have to stop when you put the book down. Talk to your child about books you've read and books you think he or she might enjoy. Point out similarities between everyday events and stories you have recently read. If your child has a favorite author, help your child write him or her a letter. For a more structured discussion, consider joining, or starting, a parent/child book club.
4. Set aside specific times for reading. Try and fit it into a timed activity during the day.
5. Build up the excitement. Get your child to record a list of books they want to read. Another idea is to record the amount of books they read. This could be done in a reading journal, or in their own fun way. It's really encouraging to look back over the month or year to see how many books you've read.

For children to progress in their reading development, it is not just a case of reading fluently. They need to be able to discuss the text and show comprehension. We work on this in class when reading with the children and also in Guided reading sessions. Below are some questions to focus on should you want to support your child with this at home.

### **KS1:**

**Before reading the book:** • Can you point to the title? or What is this? (pointing to the title) • What do you think this story will be about? What might happen in the story? • What do we call the writing on the back of the book? (Blurb) or What does the blurb tell us?

**During the reading of the book:** • What is happening in the pictures? • What has happened so far? Is it what you expected to happen? • What might happen next? How do you think the story might end? • What sort of character is....? Is he/she friendly/ mean/ nice...?

**At the end of the book:** • Did you like this book? Why? (Encourage children to develop their opinion about books by encouraging them to explain their reasons) • What was your favourite part? Why? • What was the most interesting/ exciting part of the book? Can you find it? • What sort of character was....? • Why did that character do ... (give a situation/ event from the story)? • What happened in the story?

### **KS2:**

**Before reading the book:** • What do you think this story will be about? • What might happen in the story? • What genre will this story be? E.g. fantasy, comedy, horror. • What do we call the writing on the back of the book? (Blurb) or What does the blurb tell us?

**During the reading of the book:** • What has happened so far? Is it what you expected to happen? • What might happen next? • How do you think the story might end? • Who is your favourite character? Why? • Who is the character you like least? Why? • Find 2 sentences, which describe the setting. • Is the plot fast or slow moving? Find some evidence in the text, which supports your view.

**At the end of the book:** • Which part of the story is your favourite / least favourite? Why? • Would you change any part of the story? How? • Would you change any of the characters? How? • Which part of the story was the funniest, scariest, saddest, and happiest? Find some evidence in the text to support your opinion. • Would you like to read another book by this author? Why? • Does your opinion of this character change during the story? How? Why? • If you met one of the characters from the story, what would you say to him / her? • Find 2 things the author wrote about this character that made him / her likeable or unlikeable?

For any queries regarding any points made in this letter, do come and see me.

Kind regards,

Miss Rachael Mileham  
English Subject Leader