

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Supporting Reading at Home**

At Bournville we know how important it is for teachers and parents to work together to give your child the best start. Reading together at home is one of the easiest but most important ways in which you can help your child.

We have a diverse range of books to support your child's reading within the school and this will enable your child to experience a range of authors and styles of books including fiction and non-fiction.

Research shows that your interest and involvement in your child's learning and education is more important than anything else in helping your child fulfil their potential.

As parents/carers you are the people who along with teachers with your child on their learning journey.

#### **Research findings: reading means achieving**

Recent research into the reading skills of 15 year olds across the world found that children who are more interested in reading do better at school than those who don't read for pleasure. Reading has a positive impact on progress at school, it is also a fundamental life skill.

The study also found that parents who talk to their children about books, TV programmes and films help to keep their children interested in reading.

Having books, newspapers and magazines around the home also made a difference to how interested children were in reading.

Reading can also improve mental health and well-being. It can help students to deal with issues in life.

#### **Instant ideas for helping your child to love reading –**

- Let your child choose what to read, rather than choosing what you think they should read.
- Encourage your child to read magazines, comics, newspapers and the internet as well as books.
- Remember your child is reading when they are looking at menus, timetables, road signs, instructions, TV guides and the internet.
- Listen to your children read and let them listen to you

There are many ways you can help and support your child with reading at home, I have outlined some top tips to help you:



Don't worry too much about the "what" and "how" of reading each day. Books are great but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions in a webpage can all be great too. Following a recipe to make some cupcakes is valuable reading. Be on the lookout for reading, whatever it is!



Ask your child lots of questions - all reading matters, shared reading is about "reading with", not just "reading to" (even for older children) So ask lots of "Wh" questions such as Who?, What?, When?, Where? Why? Try them when talking about books. For example "What do you think Harry is feeling?"



Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read - if it is a book, look at the front cover - or the last chapter and talk about what might happen next. Look for clues in the book and be a reading detective! For example "Can you see the bear on the front cover? where do you think they will go?"



Ask your child to summarise what they have read - when you have finished reading talk about what happened. Acting out the things that happened in the start or absorbing the big idea of a chapter is really fun and maximises learning. For example 'Can you remember all of the things that happened on the treasure hunt?'



Ask your child to write about what they have read - write or draw pictures, from anything they have read, big writing and pictures are even more fun- for example use an old roll of wallpaper to make a treasure map with clues from the book you have read.



Read and discuss reading with friends or family, make books a part of the family. Encourage your child to share them with a relative or friend - set up a reading club.



Maintain the motivation to read - talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Your child is on an amazing journey to becoming a reader. Put them in the driving seat and have fun on the way!

**Below is a list of organisations and websites where you can get more information about reading with your child: -**

- Booktrust – promotes children's reading and produces a wide range of information for young readers including booklists [www.booktrust.org.uk](http://www.booktrust.org.uk)
- Birmingham Libraries – help your child to find books they will enjoy by joining the public library, if you are not already members. It is free to join and has many different types of books that can be borrowed for free. [www.birmingham.gov.uk](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk)
- All libraries also have free internet access which can be booked with your local library.
- For information about safe websites for children visit the parent's information network at [www.pin.org.uk](http://www.pin.org.uk) or parents online at [www.parentsonline.gov.uk](http://www.parentsonline.gov.uk)
- Oxford Owl Press <http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk>
- Reading is fundamental UK <http://www.rif.org.uk/>

Please contact me if you would like any further information.

Warm regards

Ms C Cross  
Assistant Headteacher