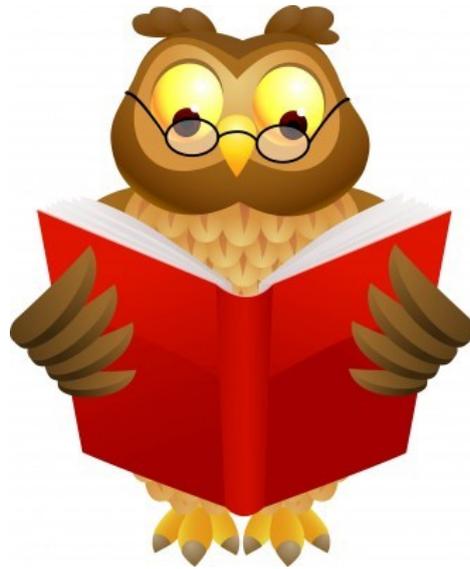


At Ellwood Primary School we encourage and value the time children spend reading at home.

This leaflet is an aid to help you achieve

# Reading matters!



Promoting partnerships between home and school

## Early Reading

At Ellwood Community Primary School our aim is to support children along their way to becoming lifelong readers. The purpose of this booklet is to provide you with information which will enable you to support your child's reading at home.

Learning to read takes time. Decoding the text and being able to read the words on the page is only the first step. Children need time to understand what they are reading and to enjoy books. Given the time to learn at their pace, children will develop resilience as readers and develop the lifelong skills they need to make them confident in their reading abilities.

## Reading with your child

Every child is provided with at least one reading book, to read at home with their family.

To gain the best results:

- Choose a time when you can relax and enjoy reading together
- Find a quiet place, if possible away from the television, music or computer
- Keep reading times short and fun
- Ask your child questions on what they have read

## Foster a love of reading

## Supporting early reading at home

### Questions to ask before reading:

- Can you point to the title? or What is this? (pointing to the title)
- What do you think this story might be about?
- What do we call the writing on the back of the book? (the blurb) or What does the blurb tell us?

### During the reading of the book:

- What is happening in the picture?
- What has happened so far? Is it what you expected to happen?
- What might happen next?
- How will the story end?
- Could there be another adventure after this one? What might the character do next?
- What sort of character is...?
- How could you describe him? (e.g. friendly, kind, mean etc.) Why?

### At the end of the book:

- Did you like this book? Why? (Encourage your child to develop their opinion about books by encouraging them to explain their reasons.)
- What was your favourite part and why?
- What was the most exciting/interesting part of the book? Can you find it? Why have you picked this part?

## Suggestions for reluctant readers

Reluctant readers become enthused when books are seen to have relevance to their other interests.

Possible things to try are:

- Keeping reading times short and fun
- Little and often is best so do not insist on reading a large amounts of text in one go
- Any interest in reading should be encouraged. Children should be encouraged to read any kind of text (even comics, sport reports, game instructions, recipes or cereal packets)
- Try sharing a book by reading one page each
- Ask children to read with a range of adults e.g. grandparents, siblings, uncles, aunties etc.

## What should I write in my child's reading record?

A common question from parents is, 'What should I write in my child's reading contact book?' The small comment (under parent comments) informs teachers of how your child's reading is progressing at home.

An example of a parent comment: 'Lee really enjoyed the story; he was able to break up unfamiliar words and read confidently with some help.'