

Dean Bank Primary and Nursery School, Ferryhill

Dear Parent/Carer,

Reading is one of the most important things your child will learn to do. Learning to read is essential and children will develop their reading skills as they go through school, but having the basic skills established at an early age is important and will help massively.

As we tell the children, reading is important for knowing what you need to click on when on your tablets, how to read a story, know what to buy in the shop, learn how to cook food etc.

We want children to be able to enjoy reading—this is called ‘Reading for Pleasure’. To be able to do this, children need to read story books at home, read their reading book that is sent home frequently and other texts like poems, recipes or signs that children may walk past in the street.

Learning to read is a stressful and challenging thing for your child. They might want to give up but as we tell them in school, you have to get things wrong and find them tricky first, so that they become easy peasy in the future. Keeping reading sessions short and regular is important, as it will keep them engaged and they will be more likely to read again next time.

Please work with us with this. Please send us a message or speak to members of staff during the day if you have a question—no question is too daft to ask!

Many thanks,

Dean Bank Staff

How to support your child with learning to read:

- Your child looks at the sound. Encourage your child to point to each sound in the word. As they say each sound, encourage them to move their finger along to the next sound. At first, you might need to do this with them but as they do this more, they will need less help.
- Repeat the sounds as your child says them. When they have finished each word, repeat the sounds back to them. For example, m-a-t, what is that? m-a-t ... mat! Or, c and h .. Those sounds together make a 'ch' sound, so ch-i-n, what is that? ... chin! This is called blending the sounds together.
- As your child reads each word, repeat the words they have already read in the sentence back to them. So for example, Sam... Sam sat... Sam sat on... Sam sat on the...Sam sat on the mat!
- Ask them questions about what they have read to help them understand the story. See if they can predict what might happen next.

Other tips to support reading at home:

1. Sit in a quiet area, without any distraction of the TV, radio or other people walking past.
2. Ask your children questions about what has happened to develop their understanding of the story, such as:
 - What is/has happened in the story?
- What did you like about the story? Is there anything you didn't like?
 - Who was your favourite character?
- Which part did you like best? Was there a part you didn't like?
- What did the characters wear? Where do the characters live?
 - What could happen next?
3. Keep reading sessions short.

4. Read a story before bed every night.
5. Be a good role model for your child-let them see you read.
6. Give lots of praise!