

Getting Ready to Read!



Helping your child to become a happy, confident reader.



Anything is possible when you believe in yourself...

Aspire Believe Achieve

The Importance Of Reading



***" The more that you read,
the more things you will
know. The more that you
learn, the more places you
will go."
Dr Seuss***

Being able to read confidently is an important life skill. We believe reading should not be a chore. It is through reading that children can have adventures, explore far off places and discover new facts. We want your children to grow up with a love of books and a love of reading.

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Reading At Home

You play a vital role in helping your children become confident readers and in encouraging your children to develop a love of reading.

Every child at Mengham Junior School has a reading diary. We ask that your child reads at home and fills in the diary at least 5 times each week. When possible, we ask that you listen to your child read or talk to them about their reading.



Every child has a school reading book.

All children are free to choose books from our fabulous library. Some of our books are banded for our "Reading Detectives" and we have a section especially for year 6. Teachers and our librarian give guidance on choosing age appropriate books.

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How can I support my child with reading at home?

Helping your child read at home is more than just hearing them read and helping them with "difficult" words (although this is very important too).

To become really confident in their reading, your child will need to understand what they are reading. To help your child with this skill, we would like you to discuss their reading with them and ask questions about what they have read.

There are two main types of questions to ask when discussing books with your children:



✓ **literal retrieval questions-**

factual questions where the answer can be found on the page, e.g. where did Harry Potter go to school?

✓ **deduction and inference questions-** where children have to "read between the lines" and look for clues e.g. what kind of character is Mr Stink? How do you know that?

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How do we teach reading at Mengham Junior School?

Daily Guided Reading

Each day, every child in the school has a guided reading session. During this time, the children will either be reading and discussing a book with a teacher or completing independent follow-up tasks related to the book they are reading. Books are chosen based on the age and reading levels of each group.

Reading Throughout The Curriculum

Children will also develop their reading skills throughout our wider school curriculum. For example, as part of learning to write, the children will explore examples of texts to understand how to become successful writers themselves. They will also apply their reading skills throughout the whole curriculum.

Reading Variety

At Mengham Junior School, all of our children encounter a wide variety of texts (including fiction, non-fiction and poetry) and read in a variety of formats, including digital formats and use of the internet.

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What should I do if my child gets 'stuck' on a word?

- ✓ Help them to 'sound the word out' using their phonics skills i.e. b-e-d =bed.
- ✓ Split the word into manageable chunks i.e. con-tact
- ✓ Read on and then try to work out what the word might be based on the context of the sentence / chapter.
- ✓ Sometimes children are in the 'flow of reading' and just want to be 'given' the word i.e. "that word is..."



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Other things you can do to help your child's reading:

- ✓ Regularly read books to or with your child.
- ✓ Take your child to the library or bookshop.
- ✓ Allow children to choose what they read, even if they choose books that are too easy or too hard. We engage more with books when we have chosen them for ourselves.
- ✓ Read anything and anywhere i.e. signs, cereal packets, cooking instructions, TV guides – whatever catches their interest!



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RESPONDING TO READING

Using some of these questions will help you discuss, understand and make comments about your reading.

PLOT

- What has happened in your book?
- What made these things happen?
- What do you think might happen next? Why do you think that?



CHARACTERS

- What does the main character look like?
- How does the character feel when?....How do you know?
- How do you know that the character is happy?
- What does the word.....tell us?
- What did the character mean when he said....?

SETTINGS

- Where do the main events take place?
- What effect does the setting have on the story?

STYLE

Look closely at a description.

- Why does the author choose the words he does?
- Find examples of images/pictures in your mind. What do the images say to you?
- Does the author use long and short sentences for different effects? What effects are achieved?
- What connecting words does the author use to join ideas in a sentence?

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