



Dear Parents and Carers

Reading at Hurst Hill

Reading is one of life's most essential skills. At Hurst Hill Primary School we hope that all children will develop a love of books, enthusiasm for promoting their reading skills and grow to be confident, competent readers. As a parent or carer, you play a vital role in supporting your child's reading development; our partnership between home and school is essential for success with this life skill.

Your child's reading experience is much more than the reading book which comes home from school. Reading is happening all the time in our classrooms and across school. It is taught in English lessons, but children are practising and using their reading constantly across all subjects too.

How can parents and carers support children?

Parents can support this 'reading journey' through regular reading at home. Reading to and with your child every evening for at least fifteen minutes can make a dramatic difference to a child's achievement within school.

Here are some tips for reading with your child at home, including:

1. Make time to read - even fifteen minutes a day.
2. Choose different types of books.
3. Take turns to read.
4. Talk about the books, asking your child questions. We call these skills VIPERS (V = Vocabulary, I = Inference, P = Prediction, E = Explain, R = Retrieve, S = Summarise/Sequence).
5. Visit the local library together and enjoy book-talk about your favourite texts.
6. Read comics, web sites, environmental signs, instructions, in fact anything at all.

Using our reading diaries at Home

When you have read with your child, please record this in your child's reading diary. This year we have made the decision to use reading diaries instead of planners to raise the profile of reading. Please record the date and page numbers that they have read with you, along with a comment about their reading or their understanding of the text and sign the planner. Reading diaries will be checked each week by your child's class teacher, where appropriate awards will be given out. We will be discussing reading incentives/awards further with the school council in due course, in order to get the children's ideas of how we can make this initiative meaningful and worthwhile to each and every one of them.

Yours sincerely

Mrs R Weaver
English Lead

