

**Dear Parents/Carers,
Welcome to Beech Class!**

Reading sessions

Our aim is to read with your child at least once a week. Your child will have one 20 minute group reading session per week with the teacher. When they are not reading with the teacher during this time they will be doing other Reading related activities, either independently or supported by a TA.

We also aim to hear children read on a one to one basis as often as we can - priority will naturally be given to those children who we feel need extra support and practise in order to progress.

A quick guide to supporting your child with reading at home

1. Getting started

Choose a quiet time when you can give your child your full attention. Talking about the book is as important as reading it. Never let your child get frustrated or impatient with their reading, it should be an enjoyable experience. Ask why they chose the book, what they think it might be about and what they notice on the front cover.

2. Giving support with reading.

Allow your child to make good use of support strategies such as looking at the pictures, understanding the story line and predicting what comes next, knowing what words would make sense in the sentence and looking at phonics, sounding out and blending - do not over rely on one strategy. Praise them for using a variety of strategies and don't be afraid to help them when they get stuck - it's ok to 'give' the odd word if it helps fluency and understanding.

Here are some things to say to help a child when they are stuck:

Have you seen this word before? Can you sound this out?

Try reading to the end of the sentence and see if that helps.

Try splitting the word into chunks. Can you see any smaller words within the word?

What is the first / middle / last sound? Does this picture give you any clues? Does that word make sense? Would another word make more sense?

3. Encouraging your child to read

Let your child see you read for different purposes and talk about your reading e.g. pleasure, bills, shopping lists, newspapers, instructions for games. Encourage your child to read a wide range of material e.g. stories, poems, information books, comics, computer texts, magazines, adverts. Hear your child read as much as you can, at least 10 minutes every day makes a huge difference across the curriculum. Remember that little and often is best.

4. Questions to ask to help your child understand a text: Who, What, When, Where, Why, How?

What has happened so far? What do you think is going to happen? Why? What does that mean? What is the character like? How do you know? Why did they do/think/say that? What does the writer want you to feel / think? Why has the writer used those words? What would you have done? Did you like the book? Why

Remember - It is equally important that your child can demonstrate sound understanding of the texts that he/she reads through discussion and can confidently answer open ended questions. Decoding words is only a small part of what reading is all about!

5. Reading to your child.

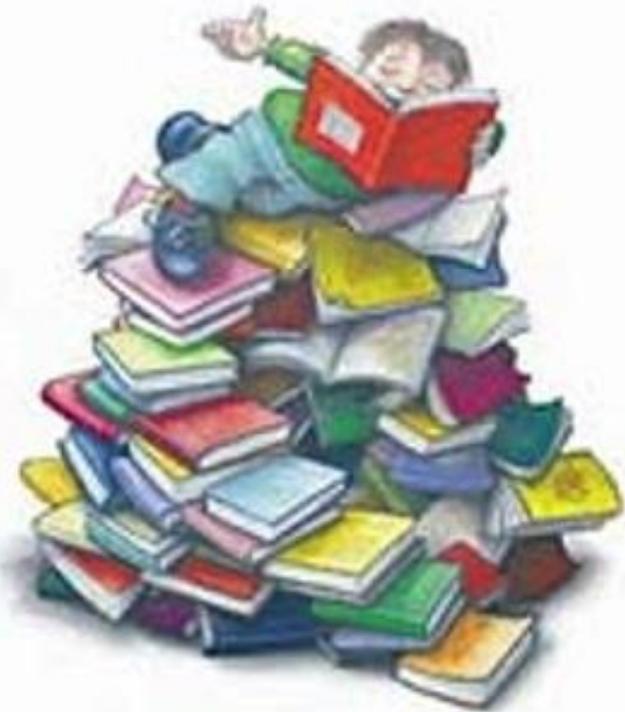
Reading stories to your child is just as important as them reading to you, it will improve their reading and writing as it gives them a love of stories, a wealth of vocabulary and access to books, stories and information that they can't access independently thus stretching and challenging them. Above all else - it's fun!!!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Many thanks,

Mrs Courtman-Stock, Mrs Goodger and Mrs Gosling.

We love reading



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reading in Beech Class

2017 - 2018

Mrs Courtman-Stock