

Supporting your child with reading at home: a guide for parents

Reading is one of the most important skills your child will learn, and your support can make all the difference! Whether it's reading for school or simply for pleasure, here are some easy and effective ways to help your child build strong reading habits and a love for books.

Create a Reading Routine

- Set a regular time for reading every day, even if it's just 10-15 minutes
- Read together: Younger children love being read to, and older children can enjoy reading aloud to you or taking turns reading chapters.
- Bedtime stories: A perfect way to wind down and bond at the end of the day.

Make Reading Fun

- Let them choose: Take your child to a library or bookshop and let them choose books that excite them. Any reading is good reading!
- Mix it up: Alternate between fiction, non-fiction, poetry or even recipe books to keep things interesting.
- Play word games: Engage them with games like Scrabble or Boggle to build vocabulary in a fun way.

Be a Reading Role Model

- Let them see you reading: Children are more likely to enjoy reading if they see you doing it too – whether it's a book, newspaper or magazine.
- Talk about books: Share your favourite stories from childhood or discuss books you've read together.

Ask Questions to Build Understanding

- Talk about what they're reading: Ask questions about the story, characters, or what might happen next. This helps develop comprehension skills.
- Encourage predictions: "What do you think will happen next?" or "Why do you think the character did that?"

Use technology positively

- Audiobooks and eBooks: These are great options, especially for reluctant readers. Listening to stories can help improve vocabulary and understanding.
- Educational apps: Use apps or websites that promote reading skills through fun activities, games and challenges.

Praise and Encourage

- Celebrate effort: Acknowledge the time and effort they put into reading, whether they've read one page or a whole chapter.
 - Create a positive environment: Never make reading feel like a chore.
- Keep it light and enjoyable.**

- Reward progress: Set up a reward system for completing books or reaching a weekly reading goal.

Provide a Comfortable Reading Space

- Set up a cosy nook: Create a quiet, comfortable reading space with good lighting and a variety of books.
- Minimise distractions: Ensure the space is free from screens or loud noises that could break focus.

Support Reading for Pleasure

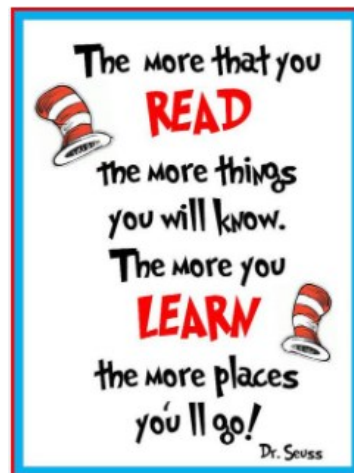
- Encourage book swaps: Organise book exchanges with friends or within the community to discover new reads.

- Involve friends and family: Grandparents, siblings or friends can all take part in your child's reading journey.

Reading Should be a Joy!

The goal is to nurture a lifelong love of reading. Every child is different, so it's important to be patient and try different approaches to find what works best for your child. Your involvement is key, and with your encouragement, reading can become a favourite part of their day!

Happy Reading!



*I do believe
something magical
can happen when
you read a book.*

J.K. Rowling

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Reading at Plains Farm Academy



Head Teacher, Miss L A Cassidy

Reading at Plains Farm Academy



At Plains Farm Academy, we believe that reading opens up the door to learning, helping our pupils to unlock the whole curriculum whilst reaching their full potential. Our core aim is to ensure that every single child becomes primary literate and makes progress in the areas of reading, writing, speaking and listening.

English at Plains Farm Academy is not a lone, daily discrete lesson, but is at the foundation of the entire curriculum. It is embedded within all our lessons and we strive for a high level of English for all, allowing our children to succeed in their confidence and ability in reading.

We are guided by research such as recommendations from the EEF, and as a result, use only the best high-quality texts that immerses children in a vocabulary rich learning environment and ensures curriculum expectations and the progression of skills are met. The children at Plains Farm Academy will be exposed to a language heavy, creative and continuous English curriculum which will not only enable them to become primary literate but will also develop a love of reading, enjoyment in creative writing and purposeful speaking and listening.

Our vision is for the creativity to be at the helm of our English curriculum and for children to learn new skills in a fun and engaging way. We foster a positive and resilient attitude and believe that all children can become fluent readers who read not only for instructional and research purposes but we also aim to create an ethos of reading for pleasure.

Phonics

At Plains Farm Academy, we believe that Read, Write, Inc (RWInc) provides the strong foundations of learning to develop children into fluent readers and writers. By following the RWInc scheme, children learn to read fluently and at speed, increasing their skills in comprehension, vocabulary and spelling. All teachers and teaching assistants are fully trained to teach phonics through the Read Write Inc phonics scheme.

In Reception, acquiring phonic skills begins with speaking and listening. Children develop their use of detail and vocabulary and their ability to listen carefully and respond accurately to sounds, questions and instructions. In the autumn term, we teach children phonemes following the sequence set out in RWInc. Children learn the sound, an action and the formation of each grapheme. We practise listening for sounds at the beginning, in the middle, and at the ends of words.

We also practise blending sounds together verbally to make words. As the children become more confident, we teach them how to put these single sounds together to read and write words. Throughout the year, we constantly reinforce the importance of correct formation of these letters, with the support of Read Write Inc and practising in different ways.



In Key Stage 1, the children continue to follow the RWInc scheme but we enhance and support this with a wide range of resources such as writing activities, card games, flash cards, interactive online and published games, as well as the many comprehensive interactive virtual classroom videos suggested in the scheme itself. In our classroom, children are supported further by highly engaging RWInc displays, sound charts and sound mats. The rigorous structure and guidance of the RWInc scheme ensures a full coverage of phonic sounds and skills and the daily lessons ensure the children apply and consolidate their knowledge in a variety of contexts. Subsequently allowing them to link phonic rules and strategies to their writing and reading tasks effectively. The RWInc programme is delivered through small group and 1:1 interventions to children who did not meet the required standard to pass the Phonics Screening Check, as well as a small number of children who need further support to maintain the expected level of reading.

The basis of our reading scheme, is the Read Write Inc reading scheme. We ensure that the books children take home to read are carefully matched to their phonic ability. We also ensure children take home a range of fiction and non-fiction books to read with families, to further develop reading comprehension and their love of reading for pleasure. As the children become more confident readers, we supplement their reading further with a range of reading-age-appropriate reading books from our school and class library, including the electronic Oxford Reading Tree reading scheme. We use the Literacy Counts: Ready, Steady, Write scheme from Reception to Year 6, to ensure children are taught to read using a balanced approach, which enables reading comprehension to be taught alongside the teaching of phonics. The Ready, Steady, Write book choices from Literacy Counts, is supported with highly engaging teaching materials, which are proven to enhance the children's engagement with texts, and further develop a read for pleasure culture.