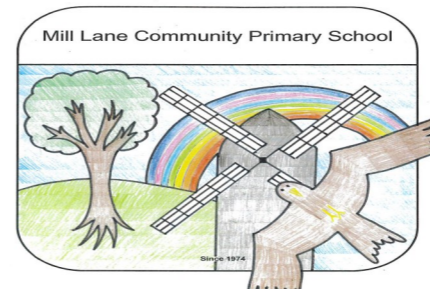


"'What is the use of a book,' thought Alice, 'without pictures or conversations?'" Lewis Carroll, from 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland'

So please, oh PLEASE, we beg, we pray,  
Go throw your TV set away.  
And in its place you can install,  
A lovely bookshelf on the wall."

Roald Dahl in 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'



# A PARENT GUIDE TO READING AT HOME



Mill Lane Community  
Primary School

## The benefits of reading with your child

At Mill Lane, we encourage children to read with an adult on a daily basis. This not only helps to increase their vocabulary, which will help with their writing, but also helps them understand different topics about the world and everyday life.

### Benefits of Reading

- Gives children the opportunity to explore their imagination and creativity;
- Develops language;
- Exercises the brain;
- Enhances concentration;
- Encourages a thirst for knowledge;
- A range of books teaches children about different topics;
- Develops empathy;

## Mill Lane Reading Challenge

We encourage children to read daily with an adult at home. For each read (on a different day), the children will be awarded points towards their bronze, silver, gold and platinum certificate which they will receive during our celebration assembly.



Bronze  
Award

60 reads

Silver  
Award

120 reads

Gold  
Award

200 reads

Platinum  
Award

300 reads

### Create a calm reading environment.

- Look Positive.
- Sound Positive.
- Sit next to the reader so that you can read exactly what they are reading.
- Talk about the book before, during and after they read it.
- Ask questions like:
  - \* What is this book about?
  - \* What does this picture tell you?
  - \* Where is the title? What does it say?
  - \* Who was your favourite character? **Why?**
  - \* Did you like this book? **Why?**

### Be a Good role model



- Handle books carefully.
- \* Let your child see you reading for pleasure.
- Remain positive and encouraging. Use a Praise, Pause and Prompt to help.
- Praise - well done, I like how you sounded that out, good expression.
- Pause - don't just offer an answer, let them think about it for a while.
- Prompt - encourage using one of the strategies in the bookmark provided.

### Some decoding strategies

- sound out/blend words I don't know.  
C-A-R-P-E-T  
"CAR - PET"  
CARPET
- look for smaller words inside words.  
tEACHer
- break words down into syllables.  
"en - joy - able"



"Enjoyable"

### Reading to understand

Whilst reading with your child, try to choose one question from the 'Totally Pawsome' bookmark provided. We recommend asking at least one question for every page read. This will check that your child really understands what they are reading and could lead to further conversations about the book.

### Home/school communication

Taking an active interest in your child's learning is one of the best ways you can help your child to do better in school and in life. Learning is not just about what happens in school. Children are learning all the time through what they see, hear and do.

A little reading goes a long way!

*Remember: a good 10 minutes is much better than a difficult half hour!*

At the end of the session, write a small comment on how your child did in their reading journal. Mention what they did well and what they need to work on. Let your child know what you are writing to ensure consistent communication between you and your child's teacher.