

Top Tips for Reading in Year 3 and 4

Your child is now building on their early reading skills and developing confidence in reading more broadly and fluently. These top tips will help you to keep a good balance between reading for enjoyment across a range of interests and developing the skills to help your child read with even more confidence and efficiency. We expect all children in Year 3 and 4 to read at home for at least 10 minutes every day. Please record in your child's planner the title of their book and any comments on their reading. We believe that reading is the gateway to learning and we appreciate your support.

Tip 1: It's still important to listen

Your child may be reading a wider range of reading material from school or home enabling them to develop their own preferences but they will still need guidance from parents, carers and teachers to ensure a healthy balance of fiction and non-fiction as well as making progress in their reading comprehension. It should be a comfortable read – endless struggling is no fun and can put children off! Enjoy talking about it together while your child is reading.

Tip 2: Still phonics first

It's good to begin with a phonics first approach when your child gets stuck on a word but now you may also try different tactics too. For example, get them to say the first sound of the word or read the whole sentence again, focusing on the meaning. Sometimes your child will still need to work out an unfamiliar word sound by sound, but increasingly it might be easier to look at the chunks or syllables in a word, for example *camp-ing* or *butt-er-fly*. Help them to do this.

Tip 3: Get your child to perform

When your child reads aloud encourage lots of expression and get them to use different voices for the different characters or to use different volume or pace. Reading to a younger sibling might demand this and is great practice! This will also aid your child's comprehension and the ability to appreciate the writer's craft.

Tip 4: Quiet time and silent reading

As well as reading books aloud together, encourage your child to read alone every night. It is also beneficial to read as a family and model enjoyment of books and reading.

There are lots of websites available where you can access e-books. The following website has been recommended by the City of York and is run by the company who publish many of the reading books we use in this school. The website is www.oxfordowl.co.uk. We are registered as a school and the website is free to use.

The KS2 class log in is: **ks2ld** and the password is: **ks2ld**.

You can select books by genre, age and some children may use book bands. Your child's book band is the same as the **coloured** sticker on their school reading book. Remember your child should be able to read the chosen book confidently so don't struggle on with a book your child is finding tricky. They might like to select an easier book to read to a young brother, sister or friend. Try using the audio button to listen to stories too!

Please do let us know if you have any questions and also let us know any comments about how you and your child find using the website.

Miss Dickenson, Mrs Mckenna and Mrs Jach