

BUXTON JUNIOR SCHOOL



Helping your child to become a better reader



A booklet for parents and carers of children in Year 3 and 4

Tips for reading with your child

Home-School Journals

Your child will bring home an exercise book which is called their Home-School Journal. We would be grateful if parents and children can cover the book with wrapping paper, magazine pages or similar to personalise it. As well as a record of homework, certificates and reading, this book is a valuable communication tool between parents/carers and teachers. Please write in your child's journal if you hear them read or to let your child's teacher know what they have been reading at home. Children are rewarded for reading at home!

Tips for hearing your child read

1. Choose a quiet time

Set aside a quiet time with no distractions. Try to read with your child on most school days. 'Little and often' is best. Ten minutes a day is much better than an hour at the weekend.

2. Make reading enjoyable

Make reading an enjoyable experience. Sit with your child. Try not to pressurise if he or she is reluctant. Take it in turns to read a page. Find books which interest your child; some children prefer 'fact books' to stories. Even confident readers enjoy having stories read to them. Many children like listening to audiobooks and then choose to read the book themselves.

3. Maintain the flow

If your child mispronounces a word, do not interrupt immediately. Instead allow opportunity for self-correction. It is better to tell a child some unknown words to maintain the flow rather than insisting on trying to build them all up from the sounds of the letters. If your child does try to 'sound out' words, encourage the use of letter sounds rather than 'alphabet names'.

4. Be positive

If your child says something nearly right to start with that is fine. Don't say 'No. That's wrong,' but 'Let's read it together' and point to the words as you say them. Boost your child's confidence with constant praise for even the smallest achievement.

5. Talk about the books

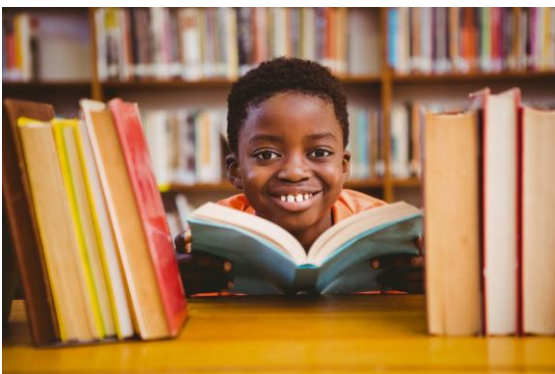
There is more to being a good reader than just being able to read the words accurately. Just as important is being able to understand what has been read. Always talk to your child about the book: about the pictures, the characters, how they think the story will end, their favourite part.

Reading Together Sessions in Year 3 and Year 4

Every term, each year group holds a "Reading Together" session. Parents and carers are warmly welcomed into classes to read with or to their children. If parents/carers aren't able to make it, children are encouraged to share their books with their friends, so please don't worry that they are missing out. These are relaxed, fun sessions, designed to make you feel welcome in school and to help children see reading as an enjoyable experience. The sessions take place between 8:55 and 9:20 and dates will be sent to you and put on the website.



Independent Readers



If your child is an independent reader, please still write in their journal at least once a week. Instead of hearing them read every page, take time to ask questions about what they are reading. Encourage them to ask questions and make predictions. Ask them about the main characters in a story. Get them to write about what they have read themselves.

Choose books together

One of the best ways to encourage your child to read is to take them to the library. If your child wants to read a particular book and it isn't on the shelves, library staff will happily order it for you.

Ask Questions

- Who are the main characters? Are they good or bad? Why do you think that?
- What has happened in the story so far?
- What do you think will happen next?
- What genre is the story? (Fantasy? Mystery? Sci-fi? Real life?)
- Would you recommend this book to another reader? Why?

What to read

You do not always have to read school books with your child. You might consider:

- Fiction books (use the local library – it's free!)
- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Recipe books
- Football programmes
- Joke books
- Cartoon books/comics
- Web pages
- Non-fiction books on any subject that your child is interested in (e.g., animals, sports, history, geography, art, cars, music etc.)

Read to your child as often as you can and share reading experiences. Talk as you read and explore questions together.



**Most of all...
Make reading fun!**