



Cloudside Academy
A L.E.A.D. Academy

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Dear Parents and Carers,

During the recent lockdown, a huge number of you were an invaluable support to your child's continued educational development and did an outstanding job. Now that your 'home school' has closed I am writing to let you know that we still need your help.

Reading is the bedrock of our curriculum here at Cloudside and underpins all areas of learning in every subject. Being successful at Reading has been proven to have **a significant, positive impact on life chances**, and so we give Reading the high profile it deserves in school.

Our school expectation is that children continue to read at home FOUR times a week as a minimum, and daily monitoring in class shows that this is only being undertaken by a small number of children. Our data tracking confirms the big impact on progress this level of support at home has, and it massively supports your child's chances of reaching their full educational potential.

Below are some hints and tips to find time for reading in our busy lives, which will help your child to grow:

- listen to your child read whilst you make dinner or do other things around the house, then get them to write in their Reading Record (you could even dictate a comment if you liked) and you simply sign it.
- read to them at bed time – it's a great model for them to hear you and a lovely activity to share
- don't think you have to stick to your child's school book – feel free to access a range of reading material (fiction books, non-fiction, magazines, comics, newspapers, picture books, library books, whatever takes their fancy)
- if you take them shopping, let them read the list
- play word games
- it isn't about reading pages and pages either, simply read a paragraph then engage in lots of talk – ask questions encouraging your child to think and make predictions, or recap what they've already read.

We know that you want to provide your child with every opportunity to be successful now and in later life. By supporting them with their reading development you will be doing just that. I attach an additional sheet of Reading Strategies and Approaches for your attention, and end by saying a massive THANK YOU for supporting us in educating your child.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Kerry Wheatley
English Lead



READING STRATEGIES AND APPROACHES TO USE AT HOME

- Look at the front cover, back cover and pictures to engage children.
- Encourage children to point to the words as they read.
- Give children time and encouragement to have a go at reading independently.
- If they are stuck on a word support them with reading it rather than telling them (see attached sheet for strategies).
- Make the experience interactive by asking questions about the story, the pictures and what they think of the characters –
- Focus on comprehension as well as word decoding.
- Encourage children to spot any spellings or spelling rules they are learning

Useful questions to support and extend

- What is the title?
- Who is the author? Illustrator?
- What kind of book is it? (fiction/ non-fiction/ poetry etc)
- Can you tell anything about the book before you start reading? How do you know?
- What has happened so far?
- What do you think might happen next? Why?
- How would you like the story to end?
- Where is the story set?
- Who are the characters? Who do you like? Dislike? Why?

Advice if reading becomes a challenge at home

- Try to avoid confrontation
- Offer a different reading material (eg. magazine, internet)
- Encourage reading at different times of the day/week
- Buy/borrow books on tape to listen to
- Share books with children, read aloud to them, enjoy - positive attitude
- Share the problem with your child's teacher!

