

## Introduction

As you are aware, your children have been assessed using the PM bench marking system and today have chosen a book related to their band level and colour. After a large investment in the library we are now able to offer your child a more systematic, diverse and progressive approach to home school reading. This approach will see your children keep the same home school reading book for a week (they can keep for multiple weeks if reading longer texts that are not finished). We hope you are able to read with your child at least three times a week. This may include rereading the text as there has been a lot of research into the benefits of rereading:

- 1) Rereading helps students read with greater fluency, allowing them to give more attention to making sense of what they have read.
- 2) Rereading helps students develop greater accuracy in reading. When students reread words that they may have struggled to decode on a first reading they become increasingly easier to pronounce.
- 3) Rereading helps students develop a deeper understanding of what they have read and allow for better intonation, pace and volume.

As and when appropriate, the adults in school will assess the book band level and colour your child is currently reading and determine if they need to progress onto the next level and or colour.



## Reading out loud

How to help your child when they are reading to you:



- Encourage your child to read with expression.
- Encourage your child to pay attention to punctuation, pausing at a comma or full stop, adding extra expression for an exclamation mark or question mark.
- If they are stuck on a word these strategies can help:
  - Use the picture for clues.
  - Use phonics (the sounds letters make) to break the word into sounds and then blend the sounds together to say the word.
  - Miss out the word they are stuck on, read the rest of the sentence and then work out the word with the clues from the sentence.

If your child has sounded out a word (using phonics), encourage them to say the whole word again after sounding out and blending.

If your child had missed a word and read the rest of the sentence to help them work the word out, encourage them to re-read the whole sentence again.

The Oxford Owl website has helpful hints, resources and videos to support learning at home <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/>

## Activities for if the book is finished

Some examples of activities that could be completed once a book/chapter is finished:

- Retell the story in a different way - create a storyboard, turn it into a play script, act it out, create a comic strip etc.
- Word substitute – Choose a word with the text and think of as many alternative words as they can that would still make sense.



- Detailed descriptions – draw/paint/collage the character or setting of the story. Borrow or add to vocabulary used to describe the character or setting.
- Non-fiction – share the facts that have shocked and surprised. Discuss how the text relates to own experiences. Look at the visuals and discuss how these help the reader to understand. Create 'fact-files' or draw an illustration and label the details learnt.
- Alternative endings – imagine how the story could have ended differently, discuss, draw it or write it.

