

A Parents Guide to Reading Together

Oxford Reading Tree

Oxford Reading Tree is a well established, stimulating and successfully trialled reading scheme, which we use as a core scheme within our school.

This booklet is a guide to its use within our school.

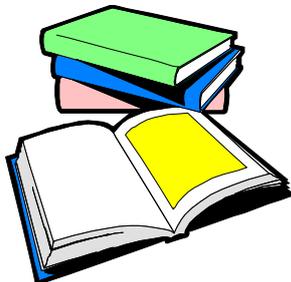
The scheme books are not the only type of book or reading experience your child will be exploring or bringing home. However, Oxford reading Tree will be our core resource for developing reading skills and an enjoyment of books.

Your child will receive individual attention in order to become a reader and will always be encouraged to feel successful. This will mean that your child's reading progress will be individual too.

Guided Reading, or as the children call it Group Reading, is a classroom activity in which the children are taught reading skills. The teacher works with each group on a text selected to offer just the right level of challenge to the group.

Your child will read a book alongside others and have the chance to gain confidence while they share in the challenge of using reading cues and strategies more effectively. They will be extending language and vocabulary and later on, developing more sophisticated aspects of grammar, inference, skimming and scanning.

Do not hesitate to see the class teacher if you have any queries about your child's reading experiences.



About Oxford Reading Tree.

The stories are carefully written using simple, natural sounding language that children can understand. 'Key' words are repeated throughout the storybooks to enable children to gradually increase the number of words they can recognise and read. The stories are fun to read and children can easily relate to some of the situations Biff, Chip, Kipper and their dog, Floppy get into!

Using Oxford Reading Tree.

At first your child will be bringing home a story book that she/he has chosen from a range of books at an appropriate level together with an extended story, which we ask you to share and discuss with your child.

The first storybooks use pictures without any words to tell the story. These pictures are full of detail and humour, making them fun to use and share. These picture storybooks teach children important skills, among them discussing the pictures to create their own story and making the connections between the picture and the story. These skills are invaluable at later stages in helping children read unfamiliar words.

The extended story - a written version of the storybook for you to read at home, accompanies each picture storybook. Reading it aloud helps your child get to know the story before reading it on his/her own. It is helpful for your child to look at the picture book as you read the extended story.



Questions are included in the extended story, which will encourage your child to talk about the story and look more closely at the illustrations. This helps comprehension and early clue finding skills for unknown words.

At later stages, storybooks include increasingly more text. These stories develop the ability to predict the storyline, to recognise words and to relate pictures and text.

Whenever reading with your child give as much praise and encouragement as you can. If something is nearly right suggest reading it again together rather than saying it was wrong.

At an appropriate time, your child will also be bringing home a tin of words to learn to read which will match those key words in the books and words she/he is learning to write and spell at school. **New words can be found loose in the tin, whilst older words will be fastened together.** Please continue to practice the known words as well as the new ones.

Your child will also be bringing home a booklet for you to write comments in about your child's reading and confidence with the key words, or involvement with the stories.

The class teacher may also make comments about reading successes, games to play, ideas to help with reading skills etc.

Your child may choose to bring home a book they have particularly enjoyed on more than one occasion, should they do this too often we will actively encourage them to chose a new book.

Please ensure that your child brings his/her book bag and reading booklet to school everyday.

Some suggestions on reading with your child.

- Choose a quiet time to read with your child where it is cosy and comfortable. Try and find five to ten minutes a day at a special time.

- Look at the cover. Talk about what the story may be about.
- Read the extended story while your child looks at the storybook.
- Look at the pictures in the storybook. Talk about them and tell the story together.
- If the storybook has sentences on the page, ask the child the guided response questions at the end of the extended story. These will help him/her read the sentences.
- Let your child read the story on their own.
- It is expected that your child will use the pictures as a clue, leave them uncovered.
- Encourage your child to have a go at reading new words and sentences using initial sounds, pictures and guessing the whole word from the context.
- Your child may learn the sentences off by heart. Do not worry if this happens.
- Ask your child to sequence the story.
- If your child is not enjoying his/her reading time, stop for a day or two, and then talk to the class teacher if the problem persists.

Please do not purchase your own Oxford Reading Tree books but leave the special stories of Biff, Chip, Kipper and Floppy for school.

Remember all children learn to read at their own pace and in their own way. Spend time enjoying reading and sharing books with your child.

Please do not hesitate to ask your child's class teacher about any aspect of reading. Thank you.