

Supporting your child with reading at home

At Moat Farm we are passionate about reading. Creating a love of reading in children is potentially one of the most powerful ways of improving academic standards. With this in mind, we have created some helpful tips to support your child not only with their reading, but also to prepare them for September.

Reading requires two skills: phonics and word recognition and understanding.

Phonics and word recognition:

* The ability to blend letter sounds (phonemes) together to read words.
* The ability to recognise words presented in and out of context.

Understanding:

* The ability to understand the meaning of the words and sentences in a text.
* The ability to understand the ideas, information and themes in a text.

Being able to read does not mean you understand what you read. Your child might sound like a good reader but may not necessarily understand what the text means. So, what can you do to help?

* Make reading visible; have books available in your home and let your child see you reading.
* Talk about books. Explore different types of books: fiction, non-fiction, poetry.
* Ask your child to sound out and blend only the words they can’t read yet.
* When reading aloud, encourage the use of expression and pace. Pay attention to punctuation marks.
* Talk about events in the book that relate to each other. Helping your child to see how the story builds up in a longer book.
* Ask them to tell you about interesting things they found out and showing you where the information is in the book.
* Discuss the use of adjectives (**describing words** e.g. red, tall, quick). How do they make the story more interesting?
* Notice the use of more descriptive verbs (**doing words** e.g. shouted, cried, bellowed) to replace ‘said’.
* Encourage silent reading. Have a conversation at the end of each reading session so they can tell you what’s happening in their book.
* Ask questions which make your child go back to the book to find answers. This helps develop skimming and scanning skills to find information.
* Ask them about exciting and adventurous words they could use in their next piece of writing.
* What do they think will happen next on this character’s journey?
* Ask them to find parts of the text which describe a character or place and talk about the words used in the description.
* Talk about how much they enjoy a book or type of book. Encourage them to look for more books of the type they enjoy
* Discuss parts of the text they particularly enjoyed. Talk about how the author made them so enjoyable.

Most importantly, continue to read aloud together for enjoyment, such as bedtimes. This shows children the importance you place on reading as well as developing their language and love of story.

Reading widely and often increases pupils’ vocabulary because they encounter words they would rarely hear or use in everyday speech. Reading also feeds pupils’ imaginations and opens up a treasure-house of wonder and joy for curious young minds.



