

## HELPING CHILDREN READ AT HOME

It is helpful to look through the story first, talking about the plot and what is happening in the pictures. Reading should be fun, with home and school together providing all the support the child needs to become a fluent and confident reader. Below are some ideas to use when helping your child with their reading.

- It is very important to support our school's reading programme to consolidate what is being taught.
- Read to your child as well as having him/her read to you. Read to your child particularly when they are tired, frustrated, upset or simply not interested in being the reader. Home reading must be a pleasurable experience for all concerned.
- You can join in WITH your child - you set the pace, not too fast. You can take turns reading a page each.
- Pictures are important! Discuss the picture with your child, give children more information, only ask one or two questions. Talk about what is happening and mention vocabulary which may be new or unfamiliar sentence structures which may be unusual. NEVER cover the picture as it provides vital information which triggers memory of the words on the page.
- Reading is gaining a message from print and this involves more than just sounding out words. No matter how well a child can sound out words, if there is no understanding of the meaning, then the child is not reading.

## WHAT TO DO WHEN A CHILD IS STUCK

There are many approaches to take when a child is puzzled by a word or words. Some of these which I use are (give your child 5 to 10 seconds to correct or try a word, then):

- Say "try going back to the beginning of the sentence and starting again"
- Say "look at the picture for clues" (helps solve the text into possible words).
- Ask "what could it be?" or "what would make sense?"
- Say "get your mouth ready" (so the initial sound is verbalised).
- Ask "do you know another word that starts that way?"
- Say "Oh, I think you have that word in your word bag" (to jog their memory).
- Do not labour the point - when your child is unable to solve the word or sentence, TELL them and encourage them to re-read.

*If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.*

*The Junior Team*

