



Book bags, Reading Records and our celebration 'Reading Clouds'

At South Stanley Infant's we love reading, and we want all our children to become lifelong lovers of books. We know that reading at home with their families has a huge impact on the success of our children. Research shows that regular reading has a positive effect on children's reading skills but also develops other areas such as concentration and empathy. It is a fact that children who read regularly tend to do better in all areas, so we aim, through sharing our approach to reading, to support you in reinforcing positive reading habits with your child.

OUR REPEAT READING APPROACH

Our school uses a 'repeat reading' approach (reading the same book more than once). This means your child will keep the same home reading book all week. The benefits of repeat reading are that your child will become more familiar with stories, develop a better understanding of the vocabulary in those stories and become confident to fluently retell these stories that are well-known to them.

In Nursery, we do not expect your child to read the book, we ask that you read their chosen book to them, but we would like them to get to know their story well enough to be able to retell it.

- First, read the book your child has chosen together. Talk about the title and the picture on the front of the book. What do they think this book is going to be about? Who do they think will be in the story? Where will the story happen? What do they think will happen?
- When you next read, talk about any new or unusual words and what they mean, so that your child understands the story.
- When you share your book again, asking your child what they remember about the story. If there are any repeated phrases encourage your child to join in with them e.g. in *The Gingerbread Man*, the repeat phrase is, 'Run, run as fast as you can, you can't catch me, I'm the Gingerbread Man!'
- When you share the book for a fourth or fifth time, ask them to tell you the story using the pictures and gentle reminders to prompt their story telling. You could ask simple questions to encourage your child to remember the story, which will also help their understanding. Encourage them to use any special words or repeated phrases in the retells e.g. in *Goldilocks and the three bears*, one repeat phrase is 'Who's been eating my porridge?'

**They do not need to give a word for word retell, but should include key characters and events.*

- Praise your child for their lovely storytelling and enjoy this special time sharing books with your children, helping them to develop a love of reading!

READING AT HOME

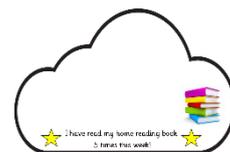


- We ask that you share your school book with your child **A MINIMUM OF THREE TIMES A WEEK**, aiming for **FIVE TIMES A WEEK**, following the thinking behind repeat reading (as above).
- Your child's teacher will write the 'week beginning' date at the top of the reading record book page for the week, then list Day 1, Day 2, Day 3, Day 4, Day 5 down the side column.
- Please sign your child's reading record **EVERY TIME YOU READ WITH YOUR CHILD**.
- Please add a comment about your child's reading (please see examples of possible comments).

- PLEASE RETURN YOUR CHILD'S BOOK BAG ON MONDAY – after school on Monday, your child's teacher will read your comments, make a return comment, change their book and their book bag will be returned to you ON TUESDAY.
 - We will monitor how often you and your child have read together and celebrate this on our reading clouds.
- Please see the overview at the back of your child's reading record book for a further explanation of our reading cloud challenge.*

READING CLOUDS

- To encourage your child to read at home to you as much as possible, we have a reading cloud challenge in school.
- For each day that your child reads to you at home, they will be placed on the coordinating cloud. There are five clouds, 'I have read once this week', 'I have read twice this week' ... up to 'I have read five times this week'. Every week your child's teacher will check their reading record book to see how many times they have read (please remember we are asking for a minimum of three times a week but aiming for five times a week). Your child's achievements will be celebrated in class and those who achieve the highest cloud (five times a week) will get a special congratulations from Mrs Thompson and a little reward!
- *We do appreciate that there may be some weeks where it is difficult to read together five nights per week - but remember the more you read together, the better for your child.*



Thank you for your continued support

Examples of comments you could use in your child's reading record book...
My child held the book the correct way up.
My child turned the pages one by one.
My child looked at the pages from left to right.
My child talked about the picture that they saw on the front cover.
My child was interested in the title of the book.
My child remembered the title of the book.
My child was interested in sharing the story.
My child listened carefully as I read the story.
My child asked questions about the story.
My child could answer simple questions about the story.
My child could predict what might happen next in the story.
My child found it hard to talk about what might happen next in the story.
My child got excited because they knew something interesting was going to happen in the story.
My child needed help to remember what happened at the end of the story.
My child could talk about the different characters in the story.
My child knew where the story was happening and talked about the story setting.
My child retold the story, remembering lots of details.
My child enjoyed this book because it was... funny / spooky / a mystery.