Welcome to our school

Partners in Literacy

Reading and the love of books begins to develop at an early age. As parents you began to foster this love when you first started reading to your child.

Those early days of reading and talking to your child provided them with the opportunity to hear the sound of language, become engaged with the story through the use of expression and tone of voice, as well as SEEING YOU as a reader.

There may be times when reading can become tricky and these hints may prove helpful for you at home.

just a few minutes, this is the most important thing today…

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St Patrick’s School

Do All Things Well

Janice Taylor
Helpful Home Hints

Aim for an atmosphere of acceptance – that it is OK to make a mistake.

😊 Provide a quiet place to share reading.
😊 Look through the book at pictures, names or unusual words.
😊 Try to predict what the book is about - read the blurb.
😊 When stuck on a word praise your child for stopping…they know there is something bothering them about that word.
😊 Encourage fluency. If reading sounds broken, say “Stop, reading does not sound like that. Make it sound like you are talking” Familiar books are great to develop this further.
😊 Provide a prompt like “Why have you stopped?” “Is there something tricky about that word?” “Does it sound right to say…” “Is there part of that word that you know?” “Try that again”
😊 If your child appeals for help try to avoid giving the word first, use a prompt for some input from them, even a first letter or sound from them, before giving the word.
Of course if all else fails, don’t frustrate your child, simply saying “You try” may be enough, then give the word.
😊 Allow time for your child to process the prompt before you jump in again.

How to encourage reading for enjoyment…

Let your child choose a book that interests them.
If it is difficult, share the reading. You may leave out a word for them to pop in, or they may read the speaking part of one character.
Take the time to ask “What did you like about that book?” “What was the funniest part?”
Talking about a book brings it to life.

Resources

Where to find suitable books…
The school library is an invaluable resource so encourage weekly borrowing.
The town library is also well resourced, and it’s free!
Try swapping books with family or friends.
Encourage the buying of books or a voucher for birthday presents.
Apps or computer programs are engaging too.
Be a model yourself and let your child see you read.