



## Newton Hill Community School



Dear Parents & Families,

To help you at home over the summer holidays I have prepared some helpful information and resources to help you read at home with your child or children.

Just remember Oxford Owl offer a whole catalogue of ebooks which are available free for you to read at home provided you have access to a tablet, smart phone, laptop or computer. The books are banded from pink (foundation stage) to dark red (year 6) and there is a range of books within each band that your child could read during the summer holidays. Time invested in reading books at home gives your child every opportunity to keep developing their fluency, stamina and comprehension as well as enriching their knowledge and understanding of new vocabulary.



The eBook Collection on Oxford Owl is easy to use webpage that allows the user to zoom in or zoom out so they can read the text at a comfortable size. You can even save a bookmark to the page so you can reopen the book at the same page you finishing reading on. Some books even provide an audio version of the book for your child to listen to. The books can be searched by age, series, level and book type, the eBook Collection is designed to help you find the perfect book for your child. You just need to register an account on their website and once you've received an email confirmation you can then access all the online books available.

Please follow the link below:

[https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/user/sign\\_up.html](https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/user/sign_up.html)

The link below also provides you with an overview of the expectations of reading for each year group. All you need to do is click on the year group your child is in to find out more.

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/>



In September reading books will be allowed to be sent home at least once a week. The books that are returned to school will be placed in a holding area where they will be quarantined for 72 hours to help ensure there is no transference of the virus via the books. Further details will be provided by class teachers in September regarding the timetable for changing books.

## ***Reading with your child***

Here are some simple tips to help you help your child with reading at home.

### **Enjoy it!**

- Take an interest - snuggle up and get cosy with a book by sharing the experience with your child.
- Read old favourites together as well as new books
- If your child reads to you, or joins in when you are reading to them, show them that you are proud of what they can do.
- Occasionally, try suggesting that they read you a bedtime story.

### **Make time & space**

- Make reading a special part of your day. Try to find time when you aren't busy doing other things so you can spend 'quality time' reading together – even if it just a few minutes. Never, ever make it a chore: if it isn't enjoyable, don't do it or rather, do it differently!
- Try to find a quiet place away from distractions like the TV, computer or tablet.
- Try to find some time every day for reading together – 10 minutes each day is better than a long session once a week.

### **Be positive!**

- Give your child lots of praise, encouragement and support when they read to you. Focus on what they did well, not what they did wrong. Even small successes are important.
- Never force your child – if they are reluctant to read you could offer a small reward such as playing a game they enjoy. If they are tired or reluctant, read to them instead, and model pleasure from this: "Great! I get to read then!"

### **Find out what they like to read**

- Sometimes we read for pleasure but much of the time we read for a reason. Read lots of different things together – stories, information books, comics, magazines, websites, cereal packets, recipes, TV books – anything you and your child enjoy reading or need to read.
- Almost always let your child make his/ her own reading choices at home. Choosing easy books, and rereading favourites, are what accomplished adult readers often do.
- Don't worry if they choose an 'easy' or favourite book over and over again. This is normal and helps children build their reading confidence and enthusiasm.
- Join the library and make trips to the local library just part of 'what we do in our family' as far as possible.

### **Talk about it**

- Talking about books will help your child become more involved and interested in reading and can help them understand more.
- After you've read a book together – or anything else you choose to read – talk about it. What was it about? How did it make you feel? What did you like or not like about it? What did you learn? Did you make any predictions about events and characters, and were you right?
- You can talk with your child about anything – games, TV programmes, films or other things you do together. Make day-to-day life into shared experiences by putting away headphones and mobile devices and talking to each other. Now is a particularly good time to get into this habit.