

## **Supporting your child's reading journey over the summer break**

**A love of reading is the biggest indicator of future academic success.**

**OECD** (The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development)

The summer holidays are a wonderful opportunity to build confidence, fluency and a love of reading. Just **10–15 minutes of reading each day** can make a significant difference and help prevent children from forgetting important phonics and reading skills.

### **Read Every Day**

- Aim to read together daily, even if only for a short time.
- Re-read favourite books to build fluency and confidence.

### **Keep Phonics Fresh**

- Practise recognising sounds and graphemes learned this year. (Take a look at the Little Wandle parent's website for support <https://www.littlewandle.org.uk/resources/for-parents/#tabnametabSupportForPhonics>)
- Play simple phonics games such as:
  - Sound hunts around the house or garden.
  - Spotting digraphs and trigraphs in books and signs.
  - Oral blending games (e.g. "Can you find the c-u-p?").
- Continue practising common exception (tricky) words regularly.

### **Talk About Books**

Reading is more than saying the words.

Ask questions such as:

- What happened first?
- Who is your favourite character and why?
- What do you think will happen next?
- How do you think that character is feeling?

These conversations help develop comprehension and vocabulary.

### **Make Reading Fun**

- Visit your local library and let your child choose books that interest them.

- Read recipes, menus, signs, comics, magazines and instructions together.
- Create cosy reading spaces indoors or outdoors.
- Share stories at bedtime.

### **Build Vocabulary Through Everyday Experiences**

Talk with your child during:

- Walks and trips out.
- Shopping visits.
- Cooking and baking.
- Family days out.

Introducing and discussing new words helps children become stronger readers.

### **Encourage Independence**

- Let your child attempt unfamiliar words using their phonics before helping.
- Praise effort and perseverance.
- Celebrate all reading achievements, no matter how small.

### **Useful Activities for Reception and Year 1 Children**

- ✓ Read a story every day.
- ✓ Practise tricky words for 5 minutes.
- ✓ Visit the library regularly.
- ✓ Play phonics games.
- ✓ Listen to audiobooks and discuss them.
- ✓ Read signs, labels and instructions in everyday life.
- ✓ Keep a simple holiday reading diary.

### **Remember...**

The most important thing is that reading remains a positive and enjoyable experience. Children who see reading as fun are more likely to become confident, successful readers.

**Happy Reading and Have a Wonderful Summer!** 📖 ☀️

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***(she/her)***