

EMMAUS



Catholic and Church of England Academy

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Dear Parent/Carer

Changes to Home-Reading books

At Emmaus, we consider teaching children to read a priority. The starting point for learning to read is our 'Read Write Inc' phonics programme which is taught from foundation stage until the children are confident readers.

In order to support children improving their fluency in reading, we are making some changes to the reading books your children will bring home to read:

For children who are on the Read Write Inc Phonics Programme:

Children will bring home 2 books in their book bag:

- A Read Write inc story book which is the same as the one they are reading in their phonics sessions. This book is for your child to read aloud to an adult at home. There are also pages for them to practise the sounds they have been learning in class. Every page has notes for the adult to read, giving guidance on how to support the reading of the book. This book will be given to your child on a Monday and must be returned to school the following Monday. (If your child is in the very early stages of the programme, they will bring home sounds to practice reading).
- A picture book from the class library. This is a book for an adult at home to read aloud and enjoy with their child. Sharing a book with your child regularly will help them to develop a love of reading – this is a vital part of learning to read.

Please use your child's reading log to record any reading that happens at home.

For children who have completed the Read Write Inc Programme:

Once children have completed the Read Write Inc Programme, they will be assessed for their reading ability using an assessment tool called 'The PDM Benchmark assessment'. Children will then be given a reading level and bring home a levelled book to read aloud to an adult. The children will be responsible for changing this reading book themselves when they have finished reading it.

The books we provide for your child cost the school a lot of money. We very much appreciate your support in ensuring all books are returned to school on the date that they are due back. If books are not returned, we will send reminders and then ask parents to pay for a replacement.
Yours Sincerely,

Louise Illien (Deputy Head Teacher and Reading Lead)



Reading with your child at home – Top Tips

Make time to share a story every day

You can enjoy books at any time of the day. Work them in to your everyday routine. Some stories are gentle and calming, making them a great choice for bedtime. Others are more exciting and adventurous, and so would be better suited to when your child is awake and active.

Keep books within easy reach

Try leaving your child's books on the lower shelves of a bookcase or in baskets on the floor. They can bring you a book when they're ready for a story or choose to explore books on their own.

Let your child choose a book

Children will often be more excited and engaged with a story if they have been involved in choosing what to read. Sharing a book of their choice also lets them know that you value their opinion.

Share your own favourite stories

It's also great to share your own favourites with your child too. Don't forget to say why you like the story so much.

Look at the pictures

Before you start, spend time together looking at the cover. If the story is new to your child, you could ask what they think the story might be about. You could also chat about the pictures on each page and encourage your child to tell the story based on the pictures.

Bring the story to life

Use your voice to make sound effects or noises. Change your tone of voice and your facial expression to suit the emotion of the character in the story. If a character is really happy, then smile and use a happy voice. This helps your child to connect to the different emotions in the story and also helps their own emotional development.

Talk about the story

After you've read the story, ask your child what they thought about it. Encourage children to tell you why they did or did not like a book. Talk about what happened in the story, how a character might have been feeling or what they think might happen next. This will help to deepen your child's understanding of the story.

Have fun

Lots of books can be playful. Find ways for your child to join in – maybe with a repeated phrase, an action or even by copying what the character is doing. Join in with them and have fun!

Read it again!

Your child may ask for the same book again and again. Each time you share it, they're learning or noticing something new. Re-reading favourite books is a great way to develop vocabulary and understanding of the story.

