



Palace Wood

PRIMARY SCHOOL



# READING STORIES TO YOUR CHILDREN

## INTRODUCTION

Reading opens the door to all learning. It is a life-long skill that we strive to teach the children alongside growing a love for reading.

At Palace Wood, we recognise the importance of working alongside you in support of your child's reading journey. Here is a useful guide which offers a structure for reading with your child. It may be useful to consider this approach when your child comes home with their reading book.

You will notice that this guide is based on reading your child's book more than once. Re-reading books is an important part of a child's reading journey. When children ask for the same book to read again, it is because they have made a connection to that book. They enjoy the book and how it made them feel so want a repeat of this experience. This is to be encouraged as not only does it build up fluency in reading and story-telling, but fosters a love of reading, too.

## TOP TIPS FOR READING

- ✓ Make reading aloud feel like a treat. Make it a special quiet time (minimize distractions) and ensure you can both see the book.
- ✓ Show curiosity about what you're going to read: *"This book looks interesting. It's about an angry child. I wonder how angry he gets...."*
- ✓ Read through the whole story the first time without stopping too much. Let the story weave its magic.
- ✓ Read with enjoyment. If you're not enjoying it, your child may not either.

## HOW TO READ WITH YOUR CHILD

- ✓ Let your child pause, think about and comment on the pictures.
- ✓ If you think your child did not understand something, try to explain: 'Oh! I think what's happening here is that...'
- ✓ Chat about the story and pictures: 'I wonder why she did that?'; 'Oh no, I hope she's not going to...'; 'I wouldn't have done that, would you?'
- ✓ Link the stories to your own family experiences: 'This reminds me of when ...'
- ✓ Link stories to others that your child knows: 'Ah! Do you remember the dragon in ....? Do you remember what happened to him?'
- ✓ Encourage your child to join in with the bits they know.
- ✓ Avoid asking questions to test what your child remembers.
- ✓ Avoid telling children that reading stories is good for them.

