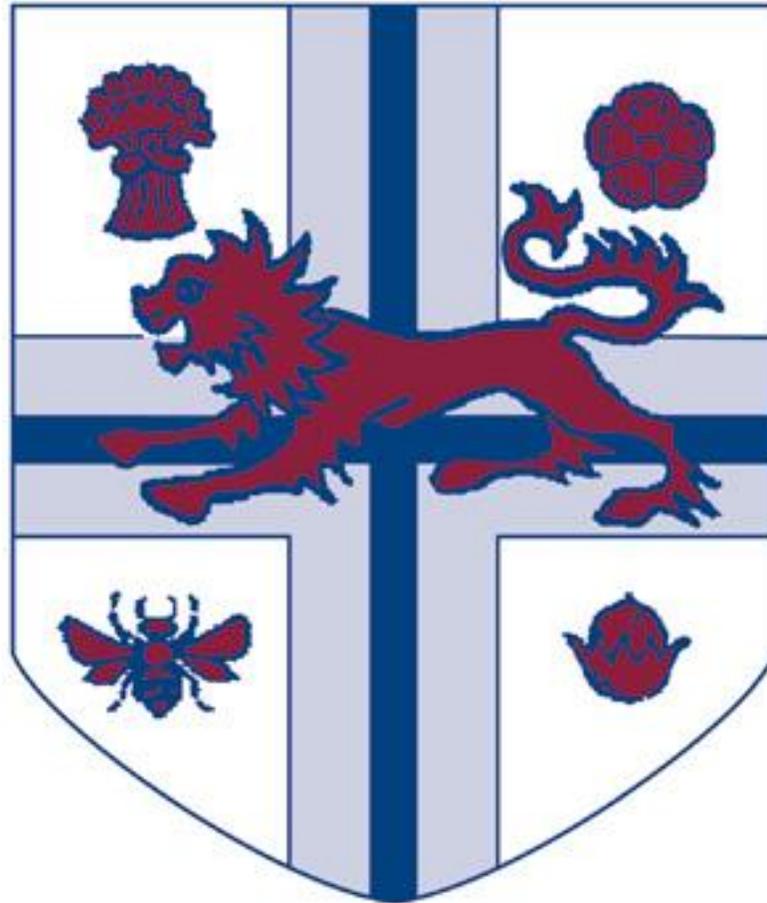


Hazel Grove High School



**Some ideas to help your child
become a better reader**

How to help your child become a better reader

Introduction

Reading is the key to successful learning in all areas of the curriculum. Our aim is for all children to be able to read confidently, not only to support their progress and learning, but also to be able to enjoy reading for pleasure.

To encourage children to become independent readers, we use a range of activities and pupils may receive individual, small group and whole class reading.

Working in partnership with home, students can work on their skills and techniques for becoming a better reader. This leaflet gives some practical ideas and explains how you can help and encourage your child at home.

How children learn to read

Learning to read is like cracking a code. Children should be encouraged to look for different clues to help them understand what they are reading. These clues may include pictures, captions, headings and sub-headings. Learning individual words is important, but they are really aiming to work out the full message.

How you can help

When you hear your child read, start by looking at short articles on a topic of interest to the child. Encourage them to use the following strategies to work words out:

- pictures
- length of word
- sound words out
- meaning of text
- word knowledge

It is important not to confuse your child, so concentrate on a few skills at a time. You might say: "*Remember to use the pictures as clues.*"

Remember, your child will already use some of the clues mentioned.

Reading practice

The aim is to make reading an enjoyable experience, but consistency is essential if progress is to be made. Try to:

- practise regularly – ideally daily
- allocate a specific time for reading (no more than 10 minutes per evening if possible)
- use a comfortable and quiet area
- make activities fun and interesting
- be gentle with any corrections

Confidence and motivation

By becoming a better reader, students can excel in their subjects and become more confident and motivated. Skills can be developed by:

- re-reading familiar books
- reading children's own pieces of writing
- listening to adults read aloud / shared reading
- listening to taped stories
- lots of praise – but try to be specific

Things to do ...

- Talk about books and pictures
- Explain what the book is about
- Ask children to predict - "*What might happen next?*"
- Ask children to talk about what has happened – "*Which words and sentences did you like?*" or "*What did you think about...?*" or "*Tell me about..*"
- Encourage children to use expression in their voice
- If children have difficulty with certain words, write the words on a card so they can be practised
- Make a game out of the common words used in reading.

Phrases to use ...

"Well done. You had a go."

"Well done. You used expression well."

"Good. You corrected yourself."

"Good try – but did it make sense?"

"Good try – but did that sound right?"

"Let's try reading that word again."

"Don't forget to follow the punctuation."

"I like how you re-read that bit to check you understood it / got it right."

"Well done for breaking the word down into sounds."

"Listen and I will demonstrate this sentence."

Remember to give lots of praise and be specific

Adapted from guidance for the Better Reading Partnership.