



Supporting reading at Bluecoat Wollaton Academy

Supporting your child's reading

You may not be as involved in your child's reading as much as you once were when they were at primary school. However, appropriate support and interest from an adult is an excellent way to help your child develop their reading skills.

What to say as your child reads to you and gets stuck:

- Nothing. Give some time to try and understand it independently.
- "Can you say the first sound?" Apply some phonic knowledge
- "Which word might make sense here?" Even if they're wrong, this shows that they understand the story or could be a means of building their vocabulary ("Yes, it's a type of transport, but the author chose a different word.")
- "Chunk it up!" Seeing smaller words in bigger words (For example, 'walking' has 'walk' in it)
- "Let's re-read it." This gives them a chance to re-read the sentence and reach the tricky word with a 'running start'.
- "Close your eyes, then look again." Close one's eyes, open them and then see if the brain can identify the word as a 'sight' word rather than sounding it out or applying context.
- "Speed up the sounds." Sounding out doesn't sound like a word, encourage them to run the sounds together so it sounds more like an actual word.
- "Skip it!" Return to the word when they understand more of the context – remember to do so!
- "What's the main word?" Identify the root word and then add on prefixes or suffixes.
- "Let me say it." Tell them the word so that the story doesn't get forgotten.

What to say as your child reads to you and uses the wrong word:

- First, think to yourself “does it matter?” Saying the wrong character’s name or the word “go” rather than “went” won’t change the meaning of the story. Let it go.
- “Can you check it?” Does that look right, sound right, make sense?
- “Make a picture in your head.” What word doesn’t fit?”
- “What is happening here and how does this sentence fit in?”

Things to say to encourage your child to understand what they’re reading:

- Ask a question about what they have already read (to themselves, or to you).
- “What do you think is going on? / What do you think will happen?” To develop inference skills.
- “How does this remind us of that other book?” To make a text-to-text connection
- “What does this make us think about - our world? / - what we saw on the news? / - what we saw yesterday?” To make a text-to-world connection.
- “Does this remind you of when...?” To make a text-to-self connection where he relates the book to themselves or to their own experiences.
- “How does that look in your head?” To encourage your child to create an image of the scene.
- “Which do you think is the most important?” To evaluate events or characters.

Your child will encounter a range of texts in school, each subject includes reading of some sort and your child has to become adept at moving between texts written for different purposes and in different formats.

Your child should know how to read a dictionary, thesaurus, a glossary, a search engine and different charts, tables and graphs.

Real world literacy

Real world literacy is used in school, but you can also see every task, chore or occasion at home as a reading opportunity. For example, help your child to read:

- A bank statement
- A phone or utility bill
- A medicine label
- A restaurant or takeaway menu
- Food packaging
- Online 'user agreements'

Using a newspaper to promote literacy

Questions you could ask to make the most of your free or local newspaper:

- Read a headline. What might the article be about? Why? Were you right?
- Read an article. What could the headline be? Why?
- Look at an image. What might the caption be? Why?
- Read a caption. Draw the associated image. Explain your thinking process.

You could use online resources to encourage children to read and develop their literacy and comprehension skills. Check out: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/> and <http://www.firstnews.co.uk/> for articles suitable for younger readers.

Using different technologies to promote literacy

- Reading isn't just about books. Children could read ebooks on a kindle or an iPad. They might want to use audio books in the car or on an mp3 player and read along as they listen. They might want to record their own audio books or record notes (Dragon Dictation on the iPad) to help them remember ideas rather than writing notes.
- There are plenty of literacy games on iPads including Shake-a-Phrase, Hooked On or Word Genius.
- Children can make their own electronic flashcards to help them remember or learn keywords using the StudyBlue website which is also available as a phone app.
- Children could use the Book Creator iPad app to write their own book or begin a blog using Blogger. They may want to choose to follow appropriate blogs that interest them and eventually comment on others' posts, entering into a debate and showcasing their writing talents and opinions.
- Writing doesn't have to be essays or stories. Children could use comic strips to summarise important information and develop their literacy skills. Websites such as Comic Life enable students to import images as well as compose text.



Other ideas to encourage your child to read:

- Encourage all your family to read for twenty minutes each day. Talk about what you're reading and make suggestions for one another.
- Start a home book group – ask your child to recommend a book and all read it. Free online books are good for this. Show respect for your child's choice – this empowers them and also enables you to know what sort of thing they are reading.
- If your child is interested in a particular career or follows a celebrity – encourage them to read a biography which will enable them to learn what such a role requires.
- Secondary school students have lots of demands on their time (school work, family, TV, gaming and social media) so link rewards to reading. Make a list together of the books they want to read this year and make a new purchase dependent on completing one of the books.
- When planning a holiday or journey, or even a new purchase, commission your child to be the resident expert. Ask them to research routes, activities, different models and prices.
- Reading online is a valid activity which enables your child to learn how to navigate menus, hyperlinks, skim and scan information. Yet ensure that your child is safe online.



We have invested in a brilliant online learning resource that aims to teach students the academic vocabulary they need to succeed in school and beyond. The extensive and engaging vocabulary curriculum offered by Bedrock Learning allows us to close the word gap and ensure that all our students are given the chance to develop and use a wide and ambitious range of ideas and vocabulary. We encourage our students to look for cross-curricular application of this vocabulary, and our staff have received high quality CPD training from Bedrock to help support vocabulary learning in all lessons. The digital platform of Bedrock allows this to be an invaluable resource for both home and school learning, and gives us a wealth of data to track and monitor usage across year groups too.

<https://bedrocklearning.org/>

The Bluecoat Wollaton Learning Resource Centre

Our Library at Bluecoat Wollaton is an amazing resource for students, packed full with an array of brilliant fiction and non-fiction books. Competitions and extra-curricular clubs such as a KS3 Book Club and a Carnegie Award Shadowing scheme help our students to feel confident and comfortable in this brilliant space.

The library is open every day during break and lunch time for students in all year groups. It is also open before school 08:00-08:30 and after school 15:00-16:00. Please note due to current COVID restrictions, students are unable to visit the library outside of their lessons. Instead, requests can be made through form tutors and the library book booking system. These books are then delivered during tutor time. Our online library catalogue can also be accessed from home through Reading Cloud by clicking the link [here](#). Students can use the online catalogue to browse for books by author, title or keyword as well as make book reservations and write reviews.

Resources and Facilities

Students and staff are automatically members of the library. Books can be borrowed for two weeks and can be renewed at any time at the library desk or via email. Resources include over 10,000 of the latest fiction and non-fiction books, computers, iPads, Kindles and reference materials. Study space is available for individual and group work, along with computer and printing access to enable students to carry out research or complete their homework. For GCSE students we have a large collection of the latest course textbooks and revision guides. Colourful, stimulating and continuously changing displays advertise library resources, clubs, events and information.

Clubs and Activities

Every year we celebrate World Book Day across the school with a variety of reading related activities such as quizzes, sponsored reads, guerrilla readers and costume competitions. [Bookbuzz](#) is a reading programme run by [BookTrust](#) and supported by children's book publishers. We take part in this every year with our Year 7 students in the Autumn term as part of their induction to the Library. The aim of Bookbuzz is to inspire a love of reading in our students through engagement with varied and high-quality books – they are able to choose a book which they can then keep.

Encourage your child to visit and join a local library:

<http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/libraries>