The Importance of Reading

and why Reading at home matters.

National Year of Reading

In July 2025, the Department for Education and the National Literacy Trust joined forces to launch a National Year of Reading, starting in January 2026 to kick start a reading revolution. Bringing together parents, schools, and libraries, the campaign aims to foster a love of reading for pleasure in children and young people, ensuring all children get the best start in life.

Reading for pleasure isn't just a hobby. It's linked to a range of benefits including stronger writing skills, improved wellbeing and confidence, and even higher future earnings, with new data showing those proficient in reading and writing in primary school earn £65,000 more over their lifetime.

As part of our Year of Reading, we are placing a strong focus on the importance of reading at least three times a week at home. Regular reading is one of the most powerful ways to support your child's learning, development and future success.

THE IMPACT OF **NOT** READING AT HOME

Children who do not read regularly at home can experience:

- Slower progress in reading fluency and comprehension.
- Difficulty with spelling, writing, and understanding new concepts.
- Limited vocabulary and less confidence in communicating ideas.
- Falling behind academically: by age 11, children who haven't developed reading fluency are four times less likely to meet the expected standard in both English and maths (DfE, 2019).

This gap in early reading can grow over time, making it harder for children to catch up later on.

Reading boosts attainment

Children who read regularly at home are 2.5 times more likely to read above the expected level for their age.

Reading builds vocabulary

Reading frequently improves outcomes in every subject, not just English. In fact, reading for pleasure at age 10 is a stronger predictor of academic success at 16 than family income or parent's education.

Reading strengthens brain development

Regular readers develop better focus, memory and emotional intelligence. Children who enjoy reading are 3 times more likely to have good mental wellbeing than their peers.

10 Strategies for supporting Reading at home
Simple tips to help your child become a confident and happy reader.

1. **Set a regular reading routine**
- Choose a consistent time each day (before bed, after school, or after dinner).
- Just 10–20 minutes a day can make a big difference!

2. **Let them choose**
- Offer a variety: storybooks, comics, fact books, magazines, graphic novels, or even recipes.
- Children are more engaged when they help choose what to read.

3. **Read aloud – even for older children**
- Listening to stories helps with vocabulary, imagination and comprehension.
- Take turns reading pages or act out characters with silly voices to keep it fun!

4. **Talk about the book**
- Ask simple questions like:
  "What do you think will happen next?"
  "Why do you think they did that?"
  "What was your favourite part?"
- Discuss tricky words or interesting facts together.

5. **Use the reading record book**
- Make a note each time you read and write a quick comment.
- This shows children their reading is valued both at home and school.

6. **Listen to audiobooks together**
- Great for car journeys or quiet time.
- Audiobooks build listening skills and introduce rich vocabulary.

7. **Label the world around them**
- Read signs, packaging, menus, instructions – reading is everywhere!
- Encourage children to read real-life text to show reading has purpose.

8. **Make it fun, not a chore**
- Keep sessions relaxed and pressure-free.
- Praise effort, not just accuracy: "I loved how you stuck with that tricky word!"

9. **Be patient with mistakes**
- Help sound out words or prompt with: "Does that make sense?" or "Try that again."
- Encourage guessing from pictures or context.

10. **Be a reading role model**
- Let your child see you reading books, newspapers or recipes.

How you can help at home

Aim for at least three 10-minute sessions of reading each week.

Talk about the story, characters and new words.

Read aloud together – even older children benefit from being read to.

Sign your child's reading record so we can celebrate their efforts in school.

ST ANDREW'S READING RAFFLE...

What do you have to do?

It's simple - all your child has to do is complete their 3 weekly reads at home. At the end of the week, reading records will be checked so that we can see how many reads have been recorded.

If your child has read 3 times then teachers will issue your child with a raffle ticket, it will then be placed into a class collection.

Four names will be chosen from each class at the end of each month, so the more reading your child does, the more tickets they get and the more likely it is that they will win extra playtime.

Together, we can give every child the gift of reading - and unlock a lifetime of opportunities.

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Houghton Deputy Headteacher