



Literacy for Learning

Supporting at home

Suggestions for how you can support the development of your child's literacy skills further at home.

Reading at Home



Even after they begin secondary school, students should be reading for a minimum of 20 minutes a day. This could be a book, magazine, newspaper or using Bedrock (for Year 7 - 9).

7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home

Shared reading is a great way to develop children's language and communication and to boost their reading skills. Regular reading routines can offer lots of opportunities for learning during school closures.

- 1 Concentrate on reading quality (it isn't all about reading lots!)



Don't worry too much about the 'what' and 'how' of reading each day. Books are great—but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions on a webpage can all be great too. Following a recipe to make some cupcakes is valuable reading. Be on the lookout for reading, wherever it is!

- 2 Ask your child lots of questions



All reading matters. Shared reading is about 'reading with', not just 'reading to' (even for older children). So, ask lots of 'Wh' questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example, 'what do you think Harry is feeling?'

- 3 Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read



If it is a book, look at the front cover—or the last chapter—and talk about what might happen next. Look for clues in the book and be a reading detective! For example, 'can you see the bear on the front cover? Where do you think he will go?'

- 4 Ask your child to summarise what they have read



When you've finished reading, talk about what happened. Acting out the things that happened in the story or describing the big idea of a chapter is really fun and maximises learning. For example, 'can you remember all the things that happened on the bear hunt?'

- 5 Ask your child to write about what they have read



Write, or draw pictures, from anything you've read! Big writing and pictures are even more fun. For example, use an old roll of wallpaper to make a treasure map with clues from the stories you've read together.

- 6 Read and discuss reading with friends or family



Make books a part of the family. Encourage your child to share them with a relative or friend, over a video call. Laugh about them when you are making meals together. For example, 'I hope the tiger doesn't come to tea today!'

- 7 Maintain the motivation to read



Talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Your child is on an amazing journey to becoming a reader. Put them in the driving seat and have fun on the way! For example, 'choose your favourite story for bedtime tonight.'

If you need support with identifying suitable reading for your child, our school library website has loads of ideas including a 'Book of the Week' as well as suggested reading lists for all year groups.

<https://sites.google.com/view/abbeyfieldlibrary/home>

Developing Vocabulary at Home



Each lesson students have new key words identified and discussed to support vocabulary development. Student are encouraged to investigate this new key language so talk to you children about the new vocabulary and encourage them to investigate further.

How to talk about words....

Prefix A letter or letters placed at the start of a word to change its meaning. E.g. in 'unfair' the prefix is 'un' meaning 'the opposite of'.	Suffix A letter or letters placed at the end of a word to change its meaning. E.g. in 'beautiful', 'ful' is the suffix, meaning 'full of'.
Etymology The history of words and how their meanings change over time.	Morphology How words are formed and how they relate to other words.
Synonym A word which has the same or almost the same meaning as another. E.g. 'light' and 'bright'.	Antonym A word which has the opposite meaning as another. E.g. 'bad' and 'good'.
Root The original form of the word without any suffixes or prefixes attached. E.g. 'beautiful' has the root 'beauty'.	

Possible discussion questions:

Where did you use the new key word?

What does it mean? Can it have more than one meaning?

Can you think of any synonyms or antonyms?

How might you use this word in school? Can it be used in any other subjects other than the one you learnt it in today?



Bedrock Vocabulary



As a school we use Bedrock Vocabulary with Year 7 – 9 students. Bedrock Vocabulary is an online programme that teaches young people the academic words they need to succeed at school and beyond, whilst encouraging reading, boosting literacy and improving learning outcomes across the curriculum.

Bedrock is self-marking and adapts to each learning, making it easy for your child to use independently and share with you at home. As a parent, you can track their progress, see what words they are learning and give them more opportunities to use these words in conversations.

Your child will have been placed in one of 10 blocks (numbered 3-12). Each block is made up of 10-14 topics. These topics consist of a range of original fiction and non-fiction texts, all of which are human narrated – so encourage your child to use speakers or headphones.

Each topic is divided into six lessons. Each lesson teaches between three and five words, and should take around 15-20 minutes to complete. A pre-test at the start of each topic and a post-test at the end assesses which words your child already knows, has learned, and is still learning. The post-test allows us to evaluate their progress.

Students make the best progress when they do two lessons a week. To help new vocabulary enter your child's long-term memory, there should be a gap of at least 12 hours between each lesson.



For a step by step parent user guide and more help head for our school library website:

<https://sites.google.com/view/abbeyfieldlibrary/bedrock-learning/parent-and-guardian-information>

Literacy Competitions

Throughout the school year there are a wide range of reading and other literacy competitions that take place.

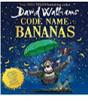
Encourage your child to participate in some of these – you can even participate yourself. Why not take part as a family in our 'Abbeyfield Reads' challenge?

Or if your child is a budding author why not encourage them to take part in our 500 word story, house competition?

ABBAYFIELD 500 WORD STORY CHALLENGE



- DUE IN 3RD MARCH ON WORLD BOOK DAY
- HAS TO BE 450- 500 WORDS
- JUDGED BY AN ESTEEMED MYSTERY JUDGING PANEL
- NO THEME SO LET YOUR IMAGINATION GO WILD!



'Abbeyfield Reads'
Challenge
2021-22

What reading did you do over Christmas or what have you read so far in 2022?
Don't forget to log your reading on our form.
Remember..... At Abbeyfield we 'Read to Succeed'.

<https://forms.office.com/r/c3Fvpe7fzc>



Happy Reading!



Competitions take place across the year so head to the school library website or look out for emails for more information.

<https://sites.google.com/view/abbeyfieldlibrary/home>