



Squirrel Hayes First School
 Springfield Road
 Biddulph
 Stoke On Trent
 ST8 7DF
 Headteacher: Mrs. E. J. Pickford
 Telephone: 01782 973820
 Twitter: @squirrelhayes

3rd November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,



As we begin the second half of the Autumn Term, I would like to remind you of the variety of reading opportunities available to your child. Reading is the best educational investment that you can make in your child. Reading helps them to achieve better in all their subjects as well as following their own interests.



Reading alongside spelling and times tables, is part of your set school homework that is expected to be done. If children fall behind in a year group, the demands of the next one, are so much greater for them. **School policy is to read at least three times a week with your child.** Home reading can be made up of:

- Practising their set digital or paper reading book.
- Reading stories to them.
- Reading their own books or digital reading for pleasure.


Reading in school takes place every day and your child is issued with a weekly digital reading book or a paper reading book. To support you and your child in wider reading, your child has a library of story and fact books available on Bug Club. For readers in Reception and Key Stage 1 your child can listen to the book too. There are linked 'bug questions' to develop reasoning and knowledge of text layout supporting their writing. **The more stories your child hears the more language they have for story writing.** A handy guide for making the most of story times is attached.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people/vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. 1





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 [Bug Club Login](#) - choose your books to read.

 [Oxford Owl Login](#) - RWI weekly reading book for children accessing phonics.



Children have a weekly 'Escape Time' lesson where they can choose books from the classroom or read a book from home. Children discuss these books and share their views about them.



All classrooms have reading corners and children are encouraged to choose from stories and non-fiction books linked to their class topic. We work hard to teach children to value books and handle them carefully.



You will be aware that funding pressures on schools are immense. **To make sure that we can keep Bug Club and its extensive library available to children and for classroom teaching, we will be organising fund raising soon.** Please support this wonderful resource so that children can enjoy a wealth of books and access books to support their discussion homework.

If you are not familiar with Bug Club, take the time to browse the lovely books available and take advantage of the resources to support home reading.

Thank you for your support as we work in partnership for great reading!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Harris (Reading Leader)

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Ten top tips for reading stories to your child

- 1 Make reading to your child feel like a treat.
Introduce each new book with excitement.
- 2 Make it a special quiet time and cuddle up so both of you can see the book.
- 3 Show curiosity in what you're going to read:
Oh no! I think Arthur is going to get even angrier now.
- 4 Read the whole story the first time through without stopping too much. If you think your child might not understand something, model an explanation:
Oh I think what's happening here is that...
- 5 Chat about the story:
I wonder why he did that?
Oh no, I hope she's not going to...
I wouldn't have done that, would you?
- 6 Avoid asking questions to test what your child remembers.
- 7 Link stories to your own experiences (e.g. *This reminds me of...*)
- 8 Read favourite stories over and over again.
Get your child to join in with the bits they know.
- 9 Read with enthusiasm. Don't be embarrassed to try out different voices. Your child will love it.
- 10 Read with enjoyment.
If you're not enjoying it, your child won't.



Reproduced from the Read Write Inc. Phonics Nursery Handbook, ISBN 978-0-19-842468-0. © Oxford University Press 2018.

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