



Stalham Infant & Junior Schools, Old Yarmouth Road, Stalham, Norwich, NR12 9PS

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Dear Families,

How Reading is taught at Stalham Infant & Junior Schools

Reading is one of life's most essential skills. At Stalham Infant & Junior Schools, we hope that all children will develop a love of books, enthusiasm for promoting their reading skills and grow to be confident, competent readers. As a parent or carer, you play a vital role in supporting your child's reading development, our partnership between home and school is essential for success with this life skill.

Your child's reading experience is much more than the reading book which comes home from school. Reading is happening all the time in our classrooms and across school. It is taught in English lessons, but children are practising and using their 'reading' constantly across all subjects too.

Home reading at Stalham Infant & Junior Schools

Nursery

Children learn to read in different ways and at different ages. The first part of a child's journey towards being a successful reader starts when your child is a baby and is listening to stories and rhymes. This encourages a love of language and stories and develops your child's vocabulary and understanding of language as they start to become familiar with what words mean and what they look like. In Nursery, your child will begin to bring home reading books from the Oxford Reading Tree range.

These books are wordless but are very important to your child's reading development. Early Books allow children to learn how stories work, including the order and direction in which they read, without the pressure of too many words on the page. Children will enjoy talking about the story and discussing what is happening in the pictures. The first step in reading is to use visual prompts to help read the words. The pictures provide lots of opportunities for experimenting with environmental sounds, an important first step in the teaching of phonics. Some Nursery children are already reading before they start school; they will be able to read the supermarket sign above the shops they visit frequently, e.g. McDonalds, Lego and Disney will be easily identifiable to them too. Whilst your young child won't necessarily be able to identify the letters and sounds within those words, they read them because they remember the overall shape of the word.

Reception and Year 1

The children in Reception and Year 1 are exposed to a 'print-rich' environment of signs, labels, books, key words, display and role play that all give opportunities for reading. There are also book areas where children can enjoy sharing books, listening to stories and reading. Children are taught daily Phonics through the 'Floppy Phonics' programme.

Children will take home an individual reading book matched to the Phonic Level they currently work on in school, in order to match the child's individual reading ability. In each Phonic Level we have a range of reading books to use the sounds that the children have been taught.

Your child will be heard read once a week by the teacher/TA to allow staff to monitor children's independent reading skills, suitability of the book or readiness to move forwards. Revisiting books with an adult allows for

repetition which leads to greater acquisition of new vocabulary because children pick up new information with each re-read.

Children will also take home a library book of their choice. This book is their choice and is to be used by adults at home to read to your child. It is not expected that your child reads this book as it is not matched to their current phonics ability. We give children these books to instill their passion for reading; our aim is for every child to enjoy books! Children will review/change their reading and library book once a week. Children will also have an individual reading record where reading at home should be recorded.

Year 2,3,4,5,6

Children in Years 2,3,4,5,6 will bring home a library book of their choice and a levelled reading book matched to their individual reading level. Children will also be heard reading at least once a week in school by a teacher/TA. Children also have a reading record in their school planners which parents should comment in when listening to your child read at home. It is expected that children read **at least twice a week** at home with an adult. The aim would be to read with them every day.

Children may bring home levelled books that you feel they can easily read. This is necessary as the focus of the Reading National Curriculum is about comprehension and understanding the text rather than just reading and moving through bands at a fast pace.

Children who have a high enough reading level will be classed as a free reader. Free readers come off the Oxford Reading Tree reading scheme and get to choose a book of their choice from our free reader selection.

Any children who are in a Phonic intervention group because they did not pass the Phonic screening in Year 1 and any SEND children will have a high focus Phonic reading book, matched to the Phonic Level they are working on so children can fully decode words.

Oxford Owl

As part of the Oxford Owl membership we have, parents have access to Oxford Owl online. The login details are in your child's planner. This allows you to access a range of additional reading books that are targeted at the specific level that your child is reading at.

How can parents support children?

Parents can support this 'reading journey' through regular reading at home. Reading to and with your child every evening for at least ten minutes can make a dramatic difference to a child's achievement within school. Reading books from home and not just school books with your children is also a lovely way to support their reading journey.

Here are some tips for reading with your child at home, including:

1. Make time to read - even ten minutes a day.
2. Choose different types of books.
3. Take turns to read.
4. Talk about the book- asking your child questions.
5. Visit the local library together and enjoy book-talk about your favourite texts.
6. Read comics, websites, environmental signs, instructions in fact anything at all.
7. Snuggle up together with a book
8. Make a reading corner/tent

Thank you for your support.

Kind regards,



Mr Glenn Russell
Executive Headteacher