

Dosbarth Afal Reading Information

We would like to take this opportunity to share some information about reading and phonic work in our classes so you have a clear picture on what your child is doing in school and how you can support them at home. This partnership between home and school is vital in helping your child reach their potential.

Daily Groups

Each day we will be running short, small group sessions for phonics and reading skills (as well as number work and handwriting). The children are taught in smaller groups, working at their own ability, being closely supported as well as challenged.

These sessions will focus on elements such as the reading and spelling of key words, sound work (phonics) to support reading and spelling, reading comprehension and discussion skills.

Reading at Home

This year, we are excited to be trialling a slightly different approach to home reading to help develop children's confidence, fluency and enjoyment of books.

Book bags will be sent home fortnightly rather than weekly and should be kept at home for the full two-week period before being returned to school (please see the timetable for the relevant dates).

Each book bag will contain two books. We encourage children to read these books several times during the two weeks. Re-reading familiar books is a valuable part of learning to read, as it helps children build their word recognition, fluency, expression and confidence.

In the first week, when the book bags are sent home, your child will be listened to reading by an adult in school. During the second week, they will take part in a range of reading activities with an adult, either individually, with a partner or in a small group. These activities are designed to help children practise and apply their reading skills while developing a love of reading and an understanding that reading can be both enjoyable and meaningful.

Activities may include:

- Reading games
- Guided reading sessions
- Paired reading
- Reading comprehension activities
- Book reviews
- Discussions about stories and characters

Book bags should be returned to school on the date shown on the timetable (unless alternative arrangements have been made). A collection box will be placed in the conservatory near the door, where children can put their book bags as they arrive at school.



Reading Diary A reading diary will be sent home with the books where we will record some notes about our reading session with your child. This may include a specific skill we focussed on that you can then work on together at home. If your child is working on learning initial sounds or key words these will be recorded on a separate sheet or book. If they have learnt all the sets of key words, then 'new' words to learn from the text will be recorded in the diary.

This is a partnership between home and school, and we would be grateful if you could write a short note each week in your child's diary letting us know how they got on at home. If there is no note, we will assume the books are unread and send them home again the following week.

At school, we are passionate about helping children become confident readers who enjoy reading for pleasure. While the books sent home in book bags are an important part of your child's reading journey, they are only one way to develop reading skills.

Reading can happen anywhere and everywhere! We encourage families to enjoy a wide range of reading experiences together. Reading a bedtime story, sharing a favourite picture book, listening to your child read, or simply talking about a story can all help develop a love of reading.

Reading doesn't have to be limited to books. Children can practise and apply their reading skills in everyday situations, helping them to see that reading is useful, meaningful and fun. We encourage you to read with and to your child regularly and to make the most of opportunities to read when you're out and about.

Reading Tips:

Let your child choose what they read! When children are interested in the text, they are much more likely to engage and enjoy the experience. This could be a storybook, comic, magazine, information book, recipe, menu or even a sign they spot while out. Sharing the choice and taking turns to select reading materials can help keep reading exciting and enjoyable.

Fun and Practical Ways to Encourage Reading Every Day

Out and About

- Read road signs, shop names, posters and notices together.
- Play "I Spy a Word" or challenge your child to find words beginning with a particular letter.
- Look for familiar words and sounds when travelling.

Shopping Trips

- Ask your child to read the shopping list and help find the items.
- Encourage them to read labels, packaging and prices.
- Play games such as finding words they recognise or spotting letters and sounds, they have been learning.

Restaurants and Cafés

- Invite your child to read menus and help choose a meal.
- Look for interesting words together and talk about what they mean.

Bus, Train and Travel Adventures

- Read timetables, maps, station names and destination boards together.
- Ask questions such as, "What stop comes next?" or "What time does our bus leave?"

Parks and Local Visits

- Read information boards, maps, directions and safety signs.
- Encourage your child to explain what the information is telling them.

Libraries and Bookshops

- Let your child choose books that interest them.
- Read the title, cover and blurb together before deciding which books to borrow.
- Explore different types of books, including fiction, non-fiction, poetry and comics.

Everyday Reading Opportunities

- Read birthday cards, invitations and letters.
- Look at recipes while cooking together.
- Read instructions for games, toys or activities.
- Encourage your child to read tickets, receipts and appointment cards.

Most importantly, make reading a positive and enjoyable experience. Every time your child reads, listens to a story or talks about a book, they are developing important skills. By sharing a variety of reading experiences at home, we can work together to help your child become a confident, enthusiastic and successful lifelong reader.

Mrs Sully & Dosbarth Afal Team