

Moorside Primary School
Beaconsfield Street
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 5AW

Telephone: [0191 272 0239](tel:01912720239)
Email: admin@moorside.newcastle.sch.uk
Website: www.moorside.newcastle.sch.uk

Head Teacher: L Hall
Email: linda.hall@moorside.newcastle.sch.uk



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Reading in Reception and at home

Reading for pleasure

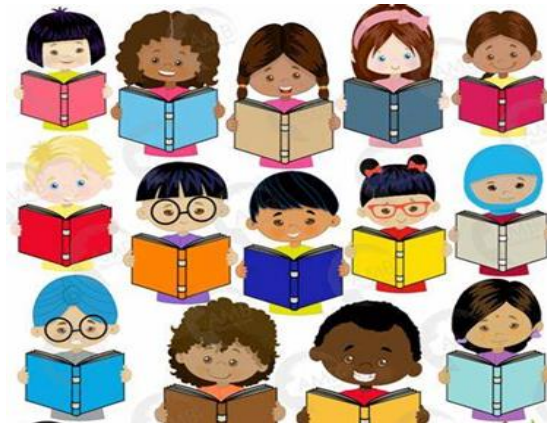
Your child will bring a book of their choice home from the school library. The words in the book may be more difficult for them to read so it would be lovely for an adult to read the story to them or to simply look through the pictures together.

Focused reading

They will also bring a school reading book which they have been learning to read in class. To begin with these books will only have pictures in them and it is important that children learn to retell stories and share information using the illustrations. As their reading of words develops they will begin to bring books home with simple words in and eventually the words in their reading books will build up over time.

Key words

Key word flashcards will be sent home for your child to practise reading, the aim is for the child to read these at speed and also recognise this vocabulary within other texts they read.



Quality reading with your child

Read together every day

Children need to read little and often, so snuggle up with a book or sit at the screen together at a time that works for you both (or all!). Also try to keep a regular slot each day for a special relaxing reading time if possible – we all need that!

Read everywhere you go

Read on the move and show your child how you read words everywhere you go. Point out words they might recognise, including signs and logos in the street or on labels.

Find your favourites and add to them

Children love to listen to and read their favourite books over and over again and to remember some parts by heart. That's fine as enjoyment and memory play a key part in learning to read. Add to their list of favourites by reading stories of all kinds, rhymes, poetry and information books too.

All join in

Start asking your child to join in with bits that are repeated in stories, e.g. 'Run run as fast as you can! You can't catch me I'm the gingerbread man!' Traditional stories, like The Gingerbread Man, are really good for this and children will love doing the voices!

Talk about books, words and pictures

Before you start reading a book, talk about the title, the pictures on the cover (front and back). Look through the pictures together and ask your child what they think the story might be about.

Talk about stories and events

As you read and when you've finished, sometimes ask questions about the story. What was your favourite bit? What do you think about that? What would you do? Get your child to ask you questions too. Don't overdo it though – otherwise you can lose the thread of the plot.

Retell stories

Sometimes after you have shared a story, ask your child to retell it to you. Help by asking questions such as - What happened first? What next? Then what? Can you remember what happens at the end?! Encourage them to use plenty of expression.

Listen to and sing songs and rhymes

Singing lots of songs and nursery rhymes helps your child to hear the sounds in words and build up a bank of known favourites. Play with words and sounds and make up nonsense rhymes in songs or nursery rhymes they know. Encourage them to join in.

