

# **Reading with your child**

**Reading is the best way to improve literacy levels in children. Many parents worry that their child does not or will not read, however reading magazines, webpages, instructions for computer games all counts. Of course we want children to read novels and stories, however we shouldn't discourage them or criticise them for the reading they do, they should be encouraged to do more!**

**Reading with your child is one of the best ways to inspire them to read. Making sure that you are reading in front of them is also very supportive. You could try reading the same thing as your child, then you can talk to them about what they are reading and share opinions together.**

## **Tips for helping children when reading:**

- Work together on vocabulary that they haven't heard before . Choose words that they are interested in and find out the meaning using a computer or dictionary. Then you can try to use the new word when talking to them and encourage them to do the same. Don't
  - forget to revisit the word in a few days time to check they haven't forgotten!
- If they are struggling they may find it easier to have the story read to them, you could do this yourself or use audio books. Many stories can now be downloaded onto MP3 players or listened to on CD. Our school library has a good range of these for children to borrow.
- If you read with your child you can both make predictions on what might happen next in the story. This will encourage your child to think about what has happened so far and what clues the author has given them to envisage what might happen next This can also be done when watching television, soap opera writers use similar clues to those used by authors when script writing and the same skills can be used to imagine what might happen next.
- If children come across words that they are unable to pronounce ask them if they can break the word down into smaller chunks or look for familiar words within the word. Then they can try to guess how it should be pronounced, as well as guessing its meaning before they look it up in a dictionary.

# What to read?

Many parents try to encourage their children to read but can find it difficult to suggest books to their children.

In the library at The Westwood Academy we have a fantastic selection of books, as well as librarians who love helping children find exciting new books to read. Please encourage your child to visit our library and to become regular borrowers and readers. Children should always have something to read both at home and at school, that way when the opportunity to read arises they are ready.

There are also many local libraries around Coventry and they have excellent facilities. Visiting a library with your child and searching for books together will really help them see the real value of reading.

## **Suggested authors:**

**Celia Rees** A fabulous selection of historical fiction.

**Terry Pratchett** Wonderful fantasy writing.

**Michael Morpurgo** A wide variety of writing from animals to war. His work should also be familiar to children from reading at primary school.

**Mal Peet** Has a selection of books about football.

**Anthony Horowitz** Some inspired adventure stories.

**This is just a small selection—remember your child can always ask their English teacher for suggestions if they are stuck.**