



Donnington Wood Infant School and Nursery

Reading at Home

September 2020

learning, caring, preparing

Dear Parent/Carers

From today your child should be bringing home a reading book and reading journal. We have taken guidance on how best to start home reading in light of the current situation. As a result we have put some measures in place:

1. Your child will bring a book home on a Monday.
2. They will keep that book at home all week. We have other books available to read in school.
3. The reading book must be returned to school on a Friday, where it will be quarantined for the weekend. This is to avoid the spread of the virus, as paper products should be quarantined for 48 hours before someone else uses them.
4. A new book will be issued on the following Monday.



We would encourage you to read the book with your child as many times as you can over the week.

Re-reading of books is positive, building confidence in children's ability to read and developing fluency of reading.

Our Rocket into Reading reward charts will continue in school. Every time you read with your child, write in their journal. Once they have read 10 times, they will receive a small prize (journals will be checked on a Friday). When they have read 70 times, they will receive a certificate and a book prize.



If you have any questions about your child's reading please message us in the usual way.

We would also encourage you to read to your child as part of your daily activities. Research shows that if you read to your child regularly it supports them in learning to read, developing their emotions, building knowledge and helps relationships with others. Even if your child can read, sharing a book together is still important. Here is some advice that you may find useful:

1. Encourage your child to read

Reading helps your child's wellbeing, develops imagination and has educational benefits too. Just a few minutes a day can have a big impact on children of all ages.

2. Read aloud regularly

Try to read to your child every day. It's a special time to snuggle up and enjoy a story. Stories matter and children love re-reading them and poring over the pictures. Try adding funny voices to bring characters to life.

3. Encourage reading choice

Give children lots of opportunities to read different things in their own time - it doesn't just have to be books. There's fiction, non-fiction, poetry, comics, magazines, recipes and much more. Try leaving interesting reading material in different places around the home and see who picks it up.



4. Read together

Choose a favourite time to read together as a family and enjoy it. This might be everyone reading the same book together, reading different things at the same time, or getting your children to read to each other. This time spent reading together can be relaxing for all.

5. Create a comfortable environment

Make a calm, comfortable place for your family to relax and read independently - or together.

6. Make use of your local library

Libraries are now open, so visit them when you're able to and explore all sorts of reading ideas.



Donnington and Muxton Community Library is open Mondays and Thursdays 9am -12noon.

Oakengates Library @The Place is open Monday to Friday 11am – 4pm.

Southwater Library (Town Centre) is open Monday to Friday 11am – 4pm and Saturdays 11am – 2pm.

7. Talk about books

This is a great way to make connections, develop understanding and make reading even more enjoyable. Start by discussing the front cover and talking about what it reveals and suggests the book could be about. Then talk about what you've been reading and share ideas. You could discuss something that happened that surprised you, or something new that you found out. You could talk about how the book makes you feel and whether it reminds you of anything.

8. Bring reading to life

You could try cooking a recipe you've read together. Would you recommend it to a friend? Alternatively, play a game where you pretend to be the characters in a book, or discuss an interesting article you've read.



9. Make reading active

Play games that involve making connections between pictures, objects and words, such as reading about an object and finding similar things in your home. You could organise treasure hunts related to what you're reading. Try creating your child's very own book by using photos from your day and adding captions.



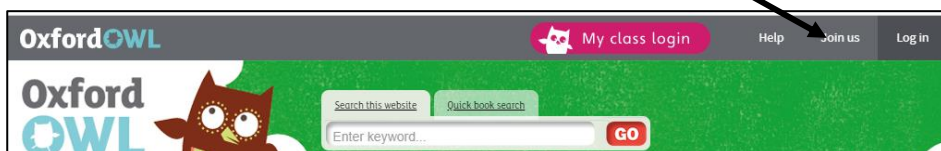
10. Engage your child in reading in a way that suits them

You know your child best and you'll know the best times for your child to read. If they have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) then short, creative activities may be the way to get them most interested. If English is an additional language, encourage reading in a child's first language, as well as in English. What matters most is that they enjoy it!

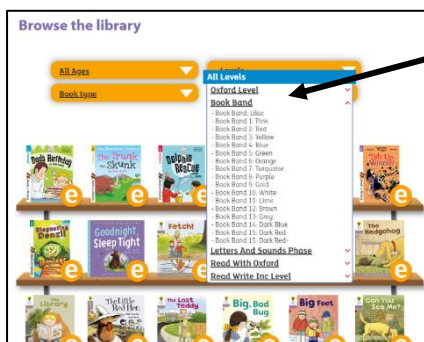
Oxford Owl is a good website to access further e-books, phonics and reading activities. They have online books which match the colour book band that your child is reading.

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

In order to access resources you will need to **register** with them. Just click on the 'Join us' button at the top of the page. It is **free**.



When you enter the 'Oxford Owl for Home' this page comes up. On the 'Free e-book library', you can select books that match the coloured banded books that your child brings home. You will need to log in to access most books.



Select 'Levels'

You can then choose the book band according to your child's reading level.

Many of the books have an audio feature, so that your child can listen to the story whilst also reading it themselves. Most of the e-books within this section of the website also have comprehension activities that your child can complete after reading the book.

