

10 TOP TIPS TO ENCOURAGE READING FOR PLEASURE



Research led. Classroom & Home-based. Pedagogically sound.

- 1 Be a strong role-model. Read yourself and be visible doing so. Be the reader you want them to be. Talk about what you are reading, your likes and your dislikes. Talk about what you gain from reading. **Make it positive.**
- 2 Read to children. Human connection is important. Listening to an audio book is a great alternative but it isn't as good as being read to by someone you're close to. **Make it personal.**
- 3 Enjoy the moment as well as the text. Turn down the lights, turn off any distractions and get cosy. Let the words wash over you with ease. **Make it comfortable.**
- 4 Make time for reading. A book before bedtime or at the end of the school day is an experience children will remember (and treasure) long after they have flown the nest. Creating moments like these resonates. **Make it memorable.**
- 5 Time it right. Choose your moment. Don't take a child away from something they are enjoying and replace it with reading. Even the keenest of readers enjoy doing other things. **Make it natural - never force it.**
- 6 Give readers plenty of choice and value their choices. Let them discover what kind of reader they want to be and allow them to change how they view themselves as readers as they grow. All text is practice and practice is important. **Be accommodating.**
- 7 Encourage wider choices but don't push it or denigrate their decisions. Allow them to return to familiar books and read books they love (whatever that book may be) more than once. **Be chilled.**
- 8 Reading non-fiction is just as valuable as fiction. It increases our knowledge of the world, ourselves and each other and opens up opportunities. **Be balanced.**
- 9 Never underestimate the power of curiosity and the desire to want to know more. Nurture and cultivate this natural desire by finding topics that *they* are interested in... dinosaurs, football, birds etc. **Make it interesting. Make it engaging.**
- 10 Visit and become a member of the library. It's free! Visit often. **Make it part of your weekly routine.**

10 TOP TIPS TO ENCOURAGE A READING CULTURE IN SCHOOL



Questions to consider and discuss with your colleagues...

- 1 Are we a Reading School? This is more than simply saying we read a lot in school. Is reading a thread that weaves its way through the fabric of our school life?
- 2 Do we have a Reading Lead in our school and how do we support them? It is the responsibility of EVERYONE to create and maintain a vibrant Reading Community. How do we ensure that everyone buys into this, values and supports it, so that it has a positive impact on all who attend? How do we ensure it thrives?
- 3 Is reading confined (or consigned) to the teaching of English? How might we enrich our *entire* curriculum with high quality literature: fiction, non-fiction and poetry? How might we promote the joy and the power of reading in *all* subjects and do so naturally?
- 4 When was the last time we had an author, story teller or poet visit our school and work with our learners? Engaging with real writers is truly inspirational. It encourages us to think about the written word and become creative. Are we willing to pay these visitors fairly for their time and expertise? Remember, they have bills to pay too.
- 5 Is our school library the jewel in the crown of our school or is it a glorified store cupboard? Implicit messages are important. What does our school library say about us? What does my class library say about me?
- 6 Do we value Story Time both in class and as a whole school? Is it timetabled or is it incidental? Is there a specific time where we can all read together? When might this be? What message would this send and to who?
- 7 Do we give our learners enough opportunities to read to others beyond their own classroom and to read for a variety of reasons? Audience and purpose are not the sole province of writing.
- 8 Do we jump on band wagons? Are we brave enough to try new things but also brave enough to say we don't think we should? Avoid DEAR (or *oh dear* as I like to call it). It's artificial, it's disruptive and it sends all kind of mixed messages.
- 9 How can we make this affordable for both our school and our parents? Reading must be accessible to all if it is to be sustainable.
- 10 Above all, how can we make it fun? If reading doesn't bring us joy, then why invest so much time and energy promoting it?

Teachers Creating Readers Framework



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