



Coniston Primary School

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Reading at Home

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Coniston Primary School we strive to provide an environment that excites, enthuses and inspires our pupils to be readers. We aim for all pupils to leave Year 6 as confident and fluent readers who are ready for the challenges that the secondary school curriculum brings. Reading allows children to connect to the wider community, increase their understanding of their own identity and raises aspirations. Not only does research show that children who read for pleasure have a more successful education, it also develops their empathy, gives an insight into the view of others and improves relationships and wellbeing for life.

A substantial donation from the Coniston PTFA has allowed our school to purchase many books for all year groups which you will see coming home with your children in their bookbags. These books are to be read for enjoyment and a written record will be kept in your child's reading diary. If your child is still learning to read using the phonics books, these books can be read to them by a parent or carer.

Although days and timings that books will be changed may vary between year groups, we ask that all children bring their bookbags into school with them every day. This means that they are taking their books home and bringing them back to school every day so that they have the opportunity to read at home and when they are at school, they will have access to their books.

We ask that children do not put water bottles into their bookbags as books can become wet and ruined. Ruined or lost books will also incur a cost depending on the book so that we are able to replace it.

It is really important that you put time aside to hear your child read and to share books and stories with them. Please see the back of this letter to find out information on *10 top tips for parents to support children to read* from the DfE.

The following link can also be accessed to find out tips and advice for developing a reading culture at home:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/reading-tips/>

If you have any questions at all, please discuss this with your child's class teacher.

Kind regards,

Mr Payne



10 top tips for parents to support children to read

Updated 25 April 2022

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 in England are available to visit when you're able to and explore all sorts of reading ideas. Local libraries also offer brilliant online materials, including audiobooks and ebooks to borrow. See [Libraries Connected](#) for more digital library services and resources.



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.

