

# Reading at Tewin Cowper

"To learn to read is to light a fire; every syllable that is spelled out is a spark."

Victor Hugo, *Les Miserables*

## The Power of Reading:

Creating a love of reading is potentially one of the most powerful ways of improving academic achievement in school. There can be few better ways to improve pupils' chances in school, or beyond in the wider world than to enable them to become truly independent readers.

## Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student "A"  
reads **20 minutes**  
each day

3600 minutes in  
a school year

**1,800,000 words**



Student "B"  
reads **5 minutes**  
each day

900 minutes in  
a school year

**282,000 words**



Student "C"  
reads **1 minute**  
each day

180 minutes in  
a school year

**8,000 words**



Reading permeates most of the learning that takes place in school. In every subject, reading is of the utmost importance, whether it is shown in reading maths questions in problem solving lessons or reading historical sources in topic lesson, a solid understanding and reading skill set is necessary to fulfil the objectives of the lesson.

Through reading, children learn new vocabulary and are introduced to words they may not have seen before.

## Reading requires two skills:

### Phonics and Word Recognition:

- The ability to recognise words presented in and out of context.
- The ability to blend letter sounds (phonemes) together to read words.

### Understanding:

- The ability to understand the meaning of the words and sentences in a text.
- The ability to understand the ideas, information and themes in a text.
- If a child understands what they hear, they will understand the same information when they read.

## What can you do at home?

- **Ensure your child is reading for at least 10-20 minutes daily.** This should be a mixture of reading out loud to you, reading to themselves (age and level depending) and hearing you read to them (when you read to them this could be a more challenging text).
- Don't just rely on books children bring home from school - choose books from home and from the library. Don't forget about newspapers and magazines.
- Re-read books - Early readers will be on books that support their phonics learning and allow for more practise of newly learnt sounds. **Sometimes teachers will ask children to re-read a book. Ofsted research has proven that the best way for learning to stick is to recap, recap, recap. They encourage schools to get children to re-read books to improve their reading skills.**
- Allow teachers to make the decision about when your child is ready to move to the next reading level - we do not assess children solely on their reading fluency, we also assess their comprehension, language understanding and phonics level.
- Read a higher level book to your child to encourage reading interest and excitement.

## Helpful Resources on our Website:

Please look at our school website (link in the ping) where you will find the following resources to support your child's reading at home:

- **Branching Out Book Lists:** These book lists support parents, teachers and children with choosing books when a child likes a particular genre or type. For example, if your child loves David Walliams but is struggling to find a different set of books to keep their interest, check out the Branching Out list for some ideas.
- **Storytime Online:** This is a link to some audio versions of some lovely children's books. Listening to books will still support children's reading development.
- **Reading Vipers:** These are sets of questions that we use in school and you can use at home to encourage and develop reading comprehension
- **Year group Book Lists:** These are lists of books that are appropriately aged and levelled for your child's year group
- **Reading Strategy Check:** This is to help support the reading strategies of Early Readers
- **Top Tips:** Top Tips for supporting KS1 reading

## What do we do in school?

We have put a high level of focus on reading as we see how important it is to support and build not only the skills required to be confident readers, but also a love of reading and sharing books.

- We aim to introduce children to a variety of text-types and authors
- We listen to children read in a variety of different ways - independently and in specific reading lessons
- We teach English lessons based around high level texts
- We read a class book with our class
- When teaching reading lessons, we question children on the texts based on the children's reading targets to improve comprehension and inference skills
- We share new and exciting books with our class to engage and excite readers
- We teach phonics lessons daily to teach children to read independently.
- We constantly assess children's reading using assessment tools