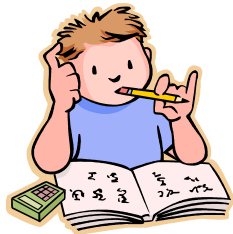**How to help your child at home**

- Encourage your child to read as much as possible.

- If your child is having difficulty understanding what they are reading suggest using one of the strategies listed.

- Homework is to practise and reinforce class work. Don't give your child the answer. If he/she cannot find the answer, then this will be explained in class.

- Children need general knowledge to understand what they are reading. Talking to your child about different subjects, encouraging them to find out information from the internet or books is perhaps the most valuable help of all.

Neilston Primary School

Helpful Hints for ......

Becoming A Thinking Reader

Reading involves two key skills:

- Reading words– We use knowledge of sounds, words we know by sight , clues from the picture or text to tackle new words.
- Understanding what we are reading. I t is possible to read the words without understanding what they mean. Even as an adult you can read a page of a book and realise you haven't understood it!

Teaching a child to become 'A Thinking Reader' is very important. Think about the things you are doing to understand this leaflet!

Before Reading–What is it about?
- Look at the picture, title
- Skim the first lines
- Think what you know already
- Think of good questions

During Reading–Stop! Check! Am I understanding what I am reading?
- Read back, read on
- Check new words in a dictionary
- What do I know already?
- Look for clues in text, picture

There are different levels of understanding, often these are tested by asking different types of questions.

Right There! The answer is right there in the text.
- Look for key words in the question. Use these to find the correct section of the text. Read to find the answer.

Think and Search! There are some clues in the text but you have to think.
- Scan the text to find the right section
- Find clues in the text
- Think about the question-Use clues in the text and what you know about the subject

On Your Own! The answer isn't in the text.
- Scan the text to find the right section
- Use what you know about the subject to answer the question