



Dear Parents and Carers,

As part of the local and national advice on Improving Attainment for All we are making some changes to the way we teach reading and we wanted to share them with you.

Your child will bring home their reading book each week. They have first read this with the teacher in class and the teacher will have coached them in the strategies to use if they get stuck on a word. The book will be at a level of 'easy difficulty'. This means that they should be able to read most words on first reading, but will still have words that they need to work out. On second reading, they should be fluent and only very occasionally get stuck on a word. When reading with your child we would like you to use the technique of 'pause, prompt, praise' if they get stuck. Information on this technique can be found overleaf and you can see it in operation on this You Tube clip:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z0YTFevd-cE>. This clip is also accessible via the Literacy and Languages page on the school website.

On other occasions, your child will bring home books that we think they will be able to read easily, but which the teacher has not heard them read. These might be picture books or reading-scheme books. Reading these books will boost your child's confidence and fluency as a reader, widen their reading vocabulary and encourage them to 'have a go' at unfamiliar texts. It would be great if you could discuss the stories and help your child to connect them to their own lives.

Teachers won't always write notes to you in their homework diaries but please be assured the teacher is still teaching your child how to read and coaching them to read well. The teacher will of course continue to read any comments that you want to make and respond to them.

Your child may also bring home a book that they have chosen for you to read to them and enjoy together. You might talk together about what the book reminded you of, what you liked and didn't like about the book, and if there were any bits that puzzled you.

Research tells us that children who enjoy reading do better in all their learning. The most important thing you can do to help your child is enjoy the time you spend reading with them. If you have any questions about this, please talk to the class teacher or depute head teacher. We can help.

Yours sincerely

Mrs McNaught

Head Teacher

RENFREWSHIRE PAUSE, PROMPT, PRAISE (sheet for parents)

At the start of the reading, ask your child:

- How far have you got?
- What has happened so far?
- Are you enjoying it?

Remind them to listen to the words as they read & think of what is happening.

When your child stops at a difficult word:

1. **PAUSE.** Give your child time to work it out.

3. **PROMPT.** If your child cannot work it out, prompt a strategy:

(a) Think about the story or re-read the sentence. What word would make sense?
Then look at/sound out the first part of the word, just to check.

(b) Sound out and blend the first syllable. Think of a word that starts the same way
and makes sense.

(c) Read past the word and try to work it out from the rest of the sentence. Then
check the letters to see if it looks right.

(d) Look at the word and see if any part is like another word you know. Then see if you
can work it out. Check it makes sense.

If none of these are working, tell your child the word.

3. **PRAISE.** Tell your child:

- I like the way you tried to work that out.
- I'm glad you noticed that didn't make sense.
- I'm glad you noticed that didn't sound right/look right.
- I like the way you skipped the word and then went back

Remember

- Make the experience successful and pleasant.
- Always praise effort.
- Encourage your child to recap the story and relate it to their life/what they know.
- If your child is struggling, or is getting upset, mention it to the teacher.
- If your child is flying through the books, be pleased and don't worry. The teacher will be checking that your child is reading at the optimum level of challenge.
- Encourage your child to be an adventurous reader and 'have a go' at a range of books.
- Read to your child, as well as getting them to read to you!