



### **Why you should read with your child every day**

We want to encourage and foster a love of reading in the children at Colby School. As parents, we know that you want the very best for your children and already appreciate that learning to read is key to accessing the curriculum at school and the wider world. However, with increasingly busy lives it may seem that hearing a child read at the end of a tiring day can feel like just another job to tick off. We hope that by writing this article for the newsletter we can remind everyone of the importance of reading with children, not just as a mechanical process but as an enjoyable activity for you to share with your children. You reading to your child is equally as important as them listening to you.

Here are some reasons why you should read with your child every day:

1. Reading is fun! Sharing a story, or a non-fiction book, whether it is read by an adult or by a child can give you the opportunity to share funny moments, or wonder at the world and beyond.
2. The value of a bedtime story cannot be over-estimated. It can be a quiet, settling time and gives your child the opportunity to listen to story language and allow their imagination to paint pictures.
3. Children absorb language structure and extend their vocabulary.
4. Children are able to think more logically and express their own thoughts and ideas more clearly.
5. Attention and concentration span is improved, which has an impact on all learning.

It is really useful to spend a few moments discussing a book with your child. You can find out how much they have enjoyed it, how well they understood it and whether they have any questions about it.

Some useful questions to ask your child about the book they have shared - choose just one or two to discuss.

1. Who are the main characters?
2. What do you think will happen next?
3. How do you think that character feels? Why? How would you feel in that situation?
4. Can you predict how the book will end?
5. Who is your favourite character? Why?
6. Is there a hidden message in the story? What is it?
7. Can you tell the story in your own words?
8. Do you like how it ended? Can you think of another way the book could have ended?

Remember that reading doesn't just have to be 'done' through books. Comics and magazines are equally good at encouraging children's interest. Point out signposts and information as you are out and about. Children like to be like you, so let them see you reading newspapers, magazines, as well as books.

The Oxford Owls website has loads of free online books available.

Happy Reading!