

Ref: KP/noc

20th September 2019



Bloxwich Academy
www.bloxwichacademy.co.uk

Dear Parent/Carer,

Your child will today bring home a selection of books in a green book bag which are yours to keep.

Introducing books during these early years will allow them to understand how stories are structured including the order and direction in which they read, and to identify key features of a book such as cover, title and author.

Children will enjoy talking about these stories and discussing what is happening in the pictures. The first step in reading is to use visual prompts to help read the words, and the pictures in these books will provide lots of opportunities for playing with environmental sounds; an important first step in the teaching of phonics.

Activities and ideas when sharing these books with your child:

- Respond to your child's ideas by repeating them back and introducing new words to increase their vocabulary.
- Look at the front cover and read the title to your child. Ask them what they think the story will be about? Relate the title back to your child i.e. 'The Lost Gloves' have they ever lost anything? or 'Puddles' what do you do when you see a puddle?
- Allow your child to turn the pages of the book and describe what they see in the pictures. You could take it in turns to tell a page of the story.
- Encourage your child to add sounds to accompany the action in story and talk about any sounds that might be found in the story setting i.e. 'Feed the Birds' what sounds might you hear outside?
- Once you have finished sharing the book ask your child to retell the story in their own words.
- Did they enjoy the story? Why?
- Look at letters in words which may be in your child's name.
- Ask your child to point to different things on the page e.g. the angry man.

We would really appreciate if you could spend about 10 minutes in the evening (building up to 20 minutes by the end of the year) reading. It is suggested that you spend time little and often looking and sharing stories together rather than long periods of time looking at all the books at once.

Soon your child will be coming home with reading books which will need to be returned and used by other children. Therefore, please look after the green bag as this will be used to take future books to and from school.

We hope that these books can be used at home to help create and nurture a love of reading.

Yours faithfully

S Davies

Mrs S Davies

Headteacher (Acting)



Read with a child

It's the most important 20 minutes of your day

Child "A"
reads **20 minutes**
each day
3,600 minutes
in a school year.

Child "B"
reads **5 minutes**
each day
900 minutes
in a school year.

Child "C"
reads **1 minute**
each day
180 minutes
in a school year.



By the end of 6th grade, Child "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Child "B" will have read only 12 school days.

Which child would you expect to have a better vocabulary?

Which child would you expect to be a proficient reader?

Make the commitment today to read with a child; it makes a difference.

10 Benefits of Reading

1. Reading is fun, a great way to spend time together Reading together on the sofa, bedtime stories and visiting the library are just some ways of spending time together.
2. Children who read often and wider get better at it. After all, practice makes perfect in almost everything humans do, and reading is no different.
3. Reading exercises our brain. Reading is much more complex task for the human brain rather than watching television, for example. Reading strengthens the brain's connections and builds new connection
4. Reading improves concentration. Children have to sit still and quietly so they can focus on a story when they are reading. If they read often, they will develop the skill to do this for longer.
5. Reading improves vocabulary and language skills. Children new words as they read. Subconsciously, they absorb information on how to structure sentences and how to use words and other language features effectively in their writing and speaking
6. Reading teaches children about the world around them. Through reading a variety of books children learn about people, places and events outside their own experiences.
7. Reading improves vocabulary and language skills. As we read our brains translate the descriptions we read of people, places and things into postures. While we are engaged in a story we are also imagining character feelings
8. Reading develops a child's imagination. As children develop they begin to imagine how they would feel in that situation.
9. Reading helps children to develop empathy. A book or an e-reader doesn't take up much space and is light to carry, so you take it everywhere so you can never be bored if you have a book in your bag.
10. Children who read achieve better in school. Reading promotes achievement in all subjects, not just English. Children who are good readers tend to achieve better across the curriculum