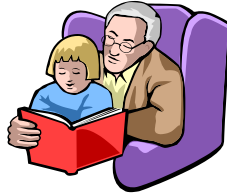


Reading Together

This booklet is designed to inform parents about the approaches towards learning to read that we use in school. We believe that a partnership between home and school leads to the best progress being made by your child. Experience has shown us that if a parent supports a child through regular reading in the home then the child's confidence and skill in reading is enhanced. This is equally true for a child who is beginning to read and for one who is reading fluently.



Beginning to read

After a few days in school your child will bring home a sound book. It will come home each day with sounds and actions to practise. Alongside this will be the worksheet for your child to revise the sounds at home with you. (This will be explained in greater detail at the Phonics parents meeting)

After a few weeks in school your child will bring home books that will be from the Oxford Reading Tree, Phonics Bug or Ginn Reading Scheme. Some of these early books contain only pictures but are vital in developing your child's confidence and language development. Your child will readily identify with the characters, and the stories focus on situations your child will recognise from his/her experiences. These books will be exchanged on a regular basis.

The whole family can help to develop your child's interest in reading by sharing reading experiences together via books, magazines, recipes, newspapers, shopping lists, invitations, birthday cards, etc. They can also help by pointing out familiar captions, notices, words and labels which are encountered in everyday life. Eg Entrance, Exit, Ladies, Gents, etc. This enables your child to learn that the written word conveys meaning.

Each week your child can bring home a library book. This is not related to our reading scheme. It is simply to be a shared reading experience between you and your child.

Moving Along

When your child knows most of the Jolly Phonic letter sounds, is able to blend sounds to read words, and is beginning to recognise some of the reading scheme and Reception key words on sight, we will give your child a reading book with words.

He/she may initially need support from you when blending sounds to read words. Please encourage him/her to also use picture and context cues when reading. This is especially important where words have irregular spellings.

The reading scheme will continue to build on the vocabulary already introduced and gradually introduce new words within different stories. These books will continue to be exchanged on a regular basis.



Helpful hints when reading at home!

*Do make sure the atmosphere is relaxed and happy.

*Do keep the reading sessions short.

*Do look at and discuss the characters, pictures and story. Ask your child what has already happened in the story and what he/she thinks might happen next.

*Do make sure your child enjoys the time you read together.

*Always give your child plenty of praise and encouragement.

DON'T

*Don't put your child under pressure to read to you. Fostering a love of books is the most valuable thing you can offer.

*Don't have the television on when reading. It can be very distracting.

*Don't threaten to send your child to bed or to tell their teacher that they have not read.

*Don't make your child feel they are in a competition. It is not a race! Children develop at different rates.

*Don't expect your child to know every word. If your child is unable to read a particular word you can help by:

saying the sounds in the word and blending

giving clues - pointing to the picture or asking a question to remind them of the context

re-reading the sentence and guessing from the context

telling your child the word and carrying on to avoid losing the momentum

Keeping in contact

At Croft C.E. Primary school we expect your child to take his/her book home on a regular basis. We will provide a reading diary and ask that you make a comment about your child's reading or any problems they experience every time you hear your child read.

If your child takes home a reading book which seems very easy it may be to build confidence in known vocabulary or may have been chosen by your child for pure enjoyment.

If you are concerned about your child's reading please do not hesitate to contact us. We can work in partnership with valuable benefits for your child. The ultimate aim being fluency, confidence and enjoyment in your child's reading.

Remember reading is great fun!