

ASH GROVE ACADEMY

ASPIRE

7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home

Shared reading is a great way to develop children's language and communication and to boost their reading skills. Regular reading routines can offer lots of opportunities for learning during school closures.

- 1 Concentrate on reading quality (it isn't all about reading lots!)



Don't worry too much about the 'what' and 'how' of reading each day. Books are great—but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions on a webpage can all be great too. Following a recipe to make some cupcakes is valuable reading. Be on the lookout for reading, wherever it is!

- 2 Ask your child lots of questions



All reading matters. Shared reading is about 'reading with', not just 'reading to' (even for older children). So, ask lots of 'Wh' questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example, 'what do you think Harry is feeling?'

- 3 Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read



If it is a book, look at the front cover—or the last chapter—and talk about what might happen next. Look for clues in the book and be a reading detective! For example, 'can you see the bear on the front cover? Where do you think he will go?'

- 4 Ask your child to summarise what they have read



When you've finished reading, talk about what happened. Acting out the things that happened in the story or describing the big idea of a chapter is really fun and maximises learning. For example, 'can you remember all the things that happened on the bear hunt?'

- 5 Ask your child to write about what they have read



Write, or draw pictures, from anything you've read! Big writing and pictures are even more fun. For example, use an old roll of wallpaper to make a treasure map with clues from the stories you've read together.

- 6 Read and discuss reading with friends or family



Make books a part of the family. Encourage your child to share them with a relative or friend, over a video call. Laugh about them when you are making meals together. For example, 'I hope the tiger doesn't come to tea today!'

- 7 Maintain the motivation to read



Talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Your child is on an amazing journey to becoming a reader. Put them in the driving seat and have fun on the way! For example, 'choose your favourite story for bedtime tonight.'

Now the children are settled back in school with positive attitudes to their learning, we welcome any support you can give to encourage a love of reading in the home. These 7 top tips are simple but highly effective.

Parents Feedback Sessions

Parents Evening for children in Reception to Year 6 will take place on Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th October. This year the event will take place on line via video link and bookings can be made via <https://ashgrove.schoolcloud.co.uk>.

The booking system will open one week beforehand on Monday 12th October.

The slots will be five minutes long and the technology means the slot cannot over run.

The purpose of the meeting is to give you an update on how your child has settled into the new term as well as feedback on their academic progress and attainment.

If for any reason you wish to have a more detailed discussion about a specific point or concern either prior or post the online meeting, you are welcome to organise this directly with your class teacher who can schedule a telephone consultation.

Prospective Reception Parents

If you know of any parents who are thinking of Ash Grove for their child in 2021, please ask them to give the school office a call to book onto a show round with Mrs Finnegan each Monday at 3.45pm. Bookings are essential.

Illness and Attendance

Attendance at Ash Grove for the first three weeks of the new academic year is well above the national average which is fantastic news.

If your child is going to be absent, please ensure you contact the school office before 9.30am to notify us. This will then avoid our pastoral team trying to make contact with you. If we do not hear from you, we have to mark the absence as unauthorised. Please also ensure we have your most up to date contact details.

Microsoft Teams

In the possible event of a partial closure of school, remote learning will be delivered via the Microsoft Teams Platform. Passwords have been distributed to children in Key Stage 2 who are becoming familiar with the interface during computing lessons here in school. The functionality will enable us to conduct live lessons, set tasks, provide feedback and schedule one to one catch-ups and consultations.

The Microsoft Teams app can be downloaded easily onto a mobile phone, laptop or tablet. We would like to encourage you to download the app in advance of receipt of your password details. Further information will follow as we progress through the next few weeks.