

Encouraging reading Year 5 and 6

At this stage, your child will be reading independently at home and school for lots of different reasons. Some children will read adventurously for pleasure while others get hooked on one author, series, or type of book. Some children will choose to read purely for information while others will be researching topics to complete homework activities. Whatever the reason this is how you can help.

Sharing reading

1. It's still good to share

It might get more difficult to make time for the 'bedtime reading experience' now, but it's still useful and enjoyable. Reading to your child, listening to your child read, leaving them to read alone, and listening to audio books are all valuable. Try to chat about reading and swap ideas about good reads in an informal way.

2. Keep opening up the world of reading

Share the variety of your reading with your child: books, magazines, websites, and apps. Show how reading can help you follow your interests and get involved. Help them to join blogs, online communities, and clubs that link to their hobbies whether it's swimming, football, dance, music, or something completely different. **Always check that any online communities children sign up to are safe and monitor their use of them.**

Developing fluency and understanding

1. Read between the lines

Talking about stories, poems, and information books can help your child understand books in different ways. It's not just about what's happened or who did what. Talk about what a book means to your child and whether they think there are any less obvious meanings that the author wants us to spot.

2. Research for homework

If your child wants to research a topic, talk to them about how they will tackle the task. Remind them to look in books and use the library as well as the internet. Talk to them about how you decide what to use and what to reject – as well as how you know which sources to trust.

Building independence

1. Valuing choice but nudging forward

It is really important to value your child's choices, even when they wouldn't be your first choice. Children enjoy reading series of books, such as *Alex Rider*, or books by one author *Michael Morpurgo*. These really help with their reading pace and stamina. However, over time it's a good idea to try to gently move them on to keep their reading experience fresh and broad.

Use booklists, websites and/or experts such as librarians, teachers and booksellers.

2. Reading clubs and groups

Show your child that there are opportunities to share reading ideas and recommendations – and the excitement of reading – through a variety of clubs, groups, festivals, and so on. Many of these are online, such as Chatterbooks, but you can also visit your library and bookshop for information.

