

More questions to ask when you have finished the book

1. Did you enjoy the book? Why?
2. Who were the characters?
3. Which was your favourite character and why?
4. How would you describe this character?
5. Was there anything about it you did not like?
6. Could you re-read your favourite part?
7. Could you think of a different ending?
8. Did you come across any unusual words? Can you find them?
9. Are there any words you did not know the meaning of?
10. Can you tell me what happened in the story?
11. What do you think...? (e.g something happened)



Looking for new books?

If you go onto the Book Trust website they have a book finder to help you search for new books.

The School Reading List website which has books lists for each year group.

Speak to other parents for books their children have enjoyed.

Speak to your class teacher to see if they have any recommendations.

Visit your local library or bookshop to find some new books!

Subscribe to First News– the children's newspaper.

Barnack C of E Primary School



Parents Information Booklet



Helping My Child to Read at Home
Year 5 and 6



What can I do to help my child in Year 5 and 6?

This stage is important for your child as a life-long reader. If they are interested now, it is likely that he/she will continue to enjoy reading, with all the benefits it brings.

Through Year 5 and 6, children will still benefit from your help and interest.

Children of this age like collecting facts and they are improving their reading at the same time. Joke books, verses and poetry books may also be appreciated as they can be dipped into at odd moments.

You might give your child a subscription to a magazine that reflects their interests as well as junior supplements in papers. First News is an excellent weekly, children's newspaper that you can subscribe to.

The other side of reading is getting into a really good children's novel. Children's libraries, bookshops and the school can help you with selection, but at this stage it is mainly your child who will choose. Try to encourage a broad range of reading materials rather than always reading books by the same author or of the same genre as this will help to expand their vocabulary and have the greatest impact on their writing.

Supporting the confident reader

Confident readers have reached the stage where they no longer wish to read to an adult and want to read silently to themselves. The interaction between parents and children changes at this stage, however its importance does not.

If they wish, allow them to read to themselves but encourage your child to talk about the book they are reading – there are suggestions for questions at the back of this booklet and in the Learning Journals. To ensure that the child's reading development continues to move forward, we would encourage parents to question the child about what they are reading. Remember to sign off any reading and discussions you have in their reading journal.

It is crucial for readers to develop their understanding of the messages the authors give in books, to extend their reading and share their enjoyment of the book.

Some questions to ask (these are continued on the back page):

What made you choose this book?

Have you read books by this author before?

Was it what you expected?

Can you describe an exciting part of the story?

Is the story straight forward or is there more than one story happening?

Would you recommend this book to your friends?

Let your child see you reading books, magazines and newspapers. This shows that you value and enjoy reading.

Reluctant readers

There is evidence that by the time they are in Year 4, some boys may be losing interest in reading and not doing as well as girls. Some boys are more tuned into magazines, information texts of all kinds and comics. They need opportunities for this type of reading at home.

Don't restrict your child's reading materials to only books. It is good for children to read a wide variety of materials. This gives the message that reading is important in everything we do.

Advice if reading at home becomes a challenge

Reading with your child at home can easily become very stressful if it is not handled correctly. It can cause more frustration if you feel like your child is not learning to read as fast as you'd expect.

We would like all of our children to enjoy reading rather than viewing it as an effort/ hard work/ something they don't enjoy. It is also something we want you to enjoy too!

Try to avoid confrontation, encourage reading at different times of the day or week

- ☺ offer alternative reading material e.g. magazines, non-fiction, internet etc.
- ☺ Share reading activities and interact with the text together
- ☺ Share the problem with your child's teacher, we are here to help!

