



Horndon on the Hill Church of England Primary School

Executive Headteacher Mrs. L. Coates / Head of School Mrs. D. Bradley

Address Hillcrest Road, Horndon on the Hill, Essex. SS17 8LR Telephone 01375 673260

Email admin.hps@osborne.coop Website www.horndononthehill.org.uk

**We are all part of God's family. Through trying our best in all that we do, we find a sense of belonging.
1 Corinthians 12:27 'All of you together are Christ's body and each of you is a part of it'.**

Dear Parents/Carers

Reading

At Horndon, reading is one of life's most essential skills. We hope that all children will develop a love of books, enthusiasm for promoting their reading skills and grow to be confident, competent readers. Since the recent disruption to face-to-face learning, we wish to promote our approach to ensuring children have a love for reading.

As a parent or carer, you play a vital role in supporting your child's reading development, our partnership between home and school is essential for success with this life skill. Your child's reading experience is much more than the book which comes home from school. Reading is happening all the time in our classrooms and across school. It is taught in reading and English lessons, but children are practising and using their 'reading' constantly across all subjects too.

Children learn to read in different ways and at different ages. The first part of a child's journey towards being a successful reader starts when your child is a baby and is listening to stories and rhymes. This encourages a love of language and stories and develops your child's vocabulary and understanding of language as they start to become familiar with what words mean and what they look like.

Early Books allow children to learn how stories work, including the order and direction in which they read, without the pressure of too many words on the page. Children will enjoy talking about the story and discussing what is happening in the pictures. The first step in reading is to use visual prompts to help read the words. The pictures provide lots of opportunities for experimenting with environmental sounds, an important first step in the teaching of phonics.

From Nursery to Year 2, Children are taught daily phonics through the 'Song of Sounds' programme. As your child progresses within our phonic scheme, they will begin to bring phonic reading books home- which will support children with decoding words with sounds they are learning in school.

Revisiting books with an adult allows for repetition which leads to greater acquisition of new vocabulary because children pick up new information with each re-read. It is helpful if your child reads their book repeatedly before it is changed in school. Sometimes, your child may bring home a book they have seen before. This can help to consolidate and build their confidence with particular sounds, blends and with tricky words.

When children have reached a successful end to their phonics scheme journey, they will receive a reading book linked to their reading ability which will help them to develop their skills of tricky words -those words which cannot be read using sounds.



Horndon-on-the-Hill C. of E. Primary School is a proud partner in the Osborne Co-operative Academy Trust

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As your child becomes a more accomplished reader, they will become 'free readers' and choose from of a selection of books within class.

All children will take home a library book of their choice. Sometimes you may feel your child's choice is too challenging or simple for them to read. Their library book should foster a love of reading. We encourage children to read for pleasure and making their own reading choices is a large part of that. If the book choice is too challenging, please read it together or they can hear an adult read the book to them. When reading at home, children can read any books or texts which they have available to them. It is valuable for them to be exposed to a range of text types; recipes, signs, comics even game instructions. Children also have an individual reading record where reading at home should be recorded. We encourage you to read often with your child. The more exposure to this they have, the more confident they will become. Reading records are checked weekly and we do ask that an adult has recorded here at least three times a week.

If your child is new to school, you can see the comments made by the adults in school so this can help you to know the kinds of things you can record here after reading with your child. We understand that homelife can be very busy, but we do appreciate when you are able to comment about your child's home reading experiences especially identifying any sounds or words that they are finding challenging. In younger classes, staff write comments about the child's reading in their home reading record. As the children move through the school, they begin to record their own reflections on their reading here too. In addition, all classes receive daily reading lessons. These lessons focus on reading skills. They learn to reflect on books by making predictions, retrieving key information, learning new vocabulary, inferring meaning in the text, comparing texts, discussing the authors choice of words and summarising what we read.

We know you will support us in ensuring your child is able to develop a love and enthusiasm for books, so they grow to be confident, competent readers.

Kind regards

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