Woodstone Community Primary School
Reading - Top Tips

1. Build reading into your child's daily routine

Find a regular time for reading in your child's day, so that they can begin to expect it as part of their routine. This can be any time of day. Some children enjoy reading before bedtime, but others can just be too exhausted at night. It might be better for some children to read just after dinner, or in the morning after breakfast, when they have more energy. You can encourage your child to track their reading using a weekly reading chart. This will help them celebrate their progress.

2. Encourage your child to follow their interests

Let your child choose the books they read. You can do this by keeping books on a shelf that they have regular access to, or by presenting them with two to three books and letting them choose.

If you are reading the book to them, let them turn the pages, skip pages, return to pages and let them interrupt you - even if it feels like they are going off track. Talking about the book helps them make sense of what they are reading.

3. Share stories - have a chat!

Read in a quiet, cosy place where your child can hold the book allowing them to see the words and pictures. Read expressively using different voices and allow your child to talk about the title, pictures and what is happening in the book. Take every opportunity to chat with your child to help them build the language and vocabulary skills they need for school. Let your child pick the topic they want to talk about, listen to them, ask questions and share your ideas.

4. Play with letters, sounds and words

Engage children in games and activities that help them learn new words. For older children, these could be crossword puzzles, word searches or word hunts. Younger children can focus on playing with letters and sounds. You can use Play-Doh or alphabet magnets. You could also make sound soup by finding items around the house that begin with particular sounds and mixing them in a bowl or play a traditional game of I-spy.