



# Stamford Green Primary School

Working together to be the best we can



# Helping your child learn to read

The whole world opened to me  
◊ when I learned to read. ◊

-Mary Mcleod Bethune

*A book is a gift you can  
open again and again.*

—Garrison Keillor

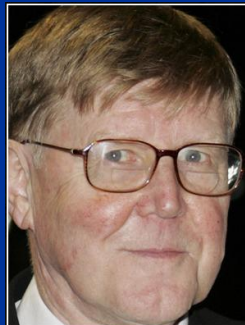
When you not only hear  
a treasured story,  
but also are pressed  
against the most  
important person in the world,  
a connection is made  
that cannot be severed.

Maurice Sendak

“The more you **read**  
the more **things** you know.  
The more that you **learn**  
the more **places** you’ll go.”  
-Dr. Seuss

# Why?

“THERE’S NO SUCH THING  
AS A KID WHO HATES  
READING. THERE ARE KIDS  
WHO LOVE READING, AND  
KIDS WHO ARE READING  
THE WRONG BOOKS.”  
JAMES PATTERSON



The best moments in reading are when you  
come across something - a thought, a  
feeling, a way of looking at things - which  
you had thought special and particular to  
you. And now, here it is, set down by  
someone else, a person you have never met,  
someone even who is long dead. And it is as  
if a hand has come out, and taken yours

— Alan Bennett —

AZ QUOTES

“ONCE YOU  
LEARN TO  
READ,  
YOU WILL BE  
FOREVER FREE”

Frederick Douglass

IF YOU WANT YOUR CHILDREN TO BE  
INTELLIGENT, READ THEM *fairytale*s.  
IF YOU WANT THEM TO BE MORE INTELLIGENT,  
READ THEM *more fairytale*s.

- ALBERT EINSTEIN





# Helping your child learn to read

How we read:

- Using phonics
- Using words we know and recognise
- Using Context
- Using Grammar
- Using our knowledge of books



# Helping your child learn to read

## Phonics

- Sounds are learnt.
- They are blended together to read words.
- Some sounds have more than one way of being written.
- Some letter combinations have more than one way of being read.
- ..... It's a place to start!



# Helping your child learn to read

## Using words we know and recognise

- Some words we have to learn off by heart.

said

you

oh

was

saw

As a child's repertoire of **sight words** widens they become more fluent.



# Helping your child learn to read

## Context

- We take context into account naturally – children may need to discuss it more specifically.
  - What are we reading?
  - What do I know about the subject?
  - What has happened so far?
  - What is in the pictures?



# Helping your child learn to read

## Grammar

- As speakers of English we have an in-built grasp of grammar, even if we don't know the words to describe it.

The boy arrived with his bad.

The girl cone into the room.

The always was the best in the world.



# Helping your child learn to read

## Knowledge of Books

- Story language “Once Upon a time..”
- The characters remain the same.
- In series similar things happen each time.
- Is it funny? Fiction/non-fiction?  
Realistic? Fantasy?
- Do you know the story already?





# Helping your child learn to read

## Decoding vs Understanding

- We have to learn to decode first, but we don't read for the sake of decoding.
- Understanding or comprehension is at a range of levels.



# Helping your child learn to read

## Reading the lines

### 'Retrieval' questions

Kayla stood outside the headteacher's office. Her heart pounded as the door began to open.

Where was Kayla?



Helping your child learn to read

## Reading between the lines

‘Inference’ and ‘deduction’ questions

Kayla stood outside the headteacher’s office. Her heart pounded as the door began to open.

How was Kayla feeling?



# Helping your child learn to read

## Reading beyond the lines

'applying', 'analysing', 'evaluating'

Kayla stood outside the headteacher's office. Her heart pounded as the door began to open.

Why do you think Kayla is there?



# Helping your child learn to read

Understanding at a deeper level might mean:

- Explaining motives for actions.
- Describing and explaining feelings.
- Making links to experiences.
- Making links between stories.
- Understanding figurative language.
- Making a reasonable guess at the meaning of unknown words.
- Predicting what might happen next.
- Predicting how characters will react/respond.



# Helping your child learn to read

Deep level comprehension skills are best developed by **talk**.

This could be about:

- Books you have shared (whoever read it).
- Films or programmes you have seen.
- Family events.
- Visits to places.
- Everyday experiences – why does the guard check the ticket on a train?
- Watching and playing sports and games.
- Resolving disagreements (once everyone has cooled down!)