





Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Many parents ask us how they can best help and support the children at home with learning. The advice we always give is to read every night with your child because this makes so much difference and brings them on rapidly. Alongside this, completing the weekly homework and practising spellings, times tables also gives the children a great foundation to build on. As a parent though, this can be tricky and choosing the right time is the key. In my house, the closer to bedtime my boys get the more bad tempered and hard work they become so I would advise completing homework when the children get home.

When reading at home talking about what has happened is valuable. Also, giving children time to correct mistakes or ask what words mean can really improve their vocabulary. Below are some questions that teachers would use and are useful for a conversation.

 <b>Question Mat</b> <b>Basic question mat</b> 		
Before Reading Questions	During Reading Questions	After Reading Questions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why did you choose the book?</li> <li>What do you think will happen in the book?</li> <li>What do you think you will like about the book?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Who are the main characters?</li> <li>Who is your favourite character?</li> <li>What do you think will happen next?</li> <li>What is the text/book about?</li> <li>Can you identify an interesting fact?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Did you enjoy the story?</li> <li>Would you recommend it to someone?</li> <li>Does the information seem true?</li> <li>How could you use this information in life?</li> </ul>

A more advanced one is on the back of this.



'Staff and Governors are committed to keeping children safe'.



## Question Mat

### Advanced Question Mat 2



Before Reading Questions	During Reading Questions	After Reading Questions
<p><b>What information can we find out about the book?</b>            What is the title? Who is the author?            Does the cover tell us about the book?            When was it published?            Is there an author biography?            What do you know about the topic?</p> <p><b>What sort of book is it?</b>            Is it a fiction or non-fiction book? What topic is it on? Is it a biography? Does it include various forms or styles of writing such as poetry? Does it include specific forms of writing in parts of the book, such as a recipe, or news, or other?</p> <p><b>How hard do we think it is?</b>            Have you tested the book?            Do you need more challenge?</p> <p><b>What do you (the tutee) want from the book?</b>            Why did you choose it? What drew your interest to it?</p>	<p><b>Why do you think the author wrote this?</b>            What was the author trying to do?            What kind of people was the author writing for?</p> <p><b>What is the book about?</b>            Where is the book set? Is it set in a real place? When is the book set? Is it in the past, present or future?            Who are the main characters? What are the main events?</p> <p><b>What does the book mean?</b>            Is there a theme or a moral? Did the author have a message to convey?            How did people in the book feel about what was happening to them?            What was fact and what was opinion?            Was good evidence presented for facts?            Do you agree with opinions?</p> <p><b>What do you think will happen next?</b>            Describe what might happen. Can you justify why you think this?            What might make it happen? How likely is it to happen?            Can you imagine characters and places in your head? Describe them.</p> <p><b>Does the book remind you of something?</b>            Does it remind you of a book?            Does it remind you of a film or story you have heard told?            Does it remind you of an event in your life? Does it remind you of feelings you have had?</p> <p><b>Thinking forwards</b>            How might the book help you in life? Have you faced similar issues? Have you felt the same way as any of the characters?</p>	<p><b>What is the main point of the book?</b>            Draw a mind-map of the main points.            Do you need to skim read any bits again?            Can you write a review of the book?            Can we design a 'quiz card' for the book? Leave your quiz inside the front cover.</p> <p><b>How does the book make you feel and think?</b>            Did it end in the way you thought it would? Were there any bits that puzzled you?            Would you recommend it to someone else? Who and why would the book be good for?            How well did we read together? What can we improve? How will we improve it?</p> <p><b>What is most memorable?</b>            Which bits did you like/dislike?            What was most memorable?            What was most exciting?            Can you draw a 'storyline' or an 'outline' for the book?            Was the book a good choice for you and why?</p> <p><b>Does it make you want to read another book?</b>            Has the author written other books?            Will you change the type of book?</p>

Thank you for your continued support.

R Birtwhistle  
 Head Teacher.