



BEACON HIGH



Parent/Carer Guide

Literacy Across the Curriculum

How can you encourage and help your child to read?

It is important to ensure that your child is being exposed to reading materials on a daily basis as there is a strong link between reading and progress at school; ideally your child should read for at least 20 minutes a day!

Here are few tips that can help and encourage your child to read and achieve academic success:

- Buy newspapers which would stretch their reading ability, for example: *The Guardian* and *The Times* (avoid tabloid newspapers such as *The Sun* and *The Daily Mail*). Read these with your child and take the opportunity to have exciting and stimulating debates about current affairs and topical issues.
- **Model reading** with your child. Tell him/her about the books/texts, as well as authors that you enjoy, thereby creating a **positive reading** atmosphere in your home.
- Encourage your child to read websites, blogs and any articles which they may be **interested** in.
- Enrol at, and visit, your **local library** with your child. Assist them that in choosing a book.
- Use **dictionaries** together to discover difficult words - a picture dictionary can make exploring language more interesting. Test your child on these words and encourage them to use these in correct sentences.

Writing and Spelling Can Be Fun!

Writing clearly and spelling correctly are skills that can be developed at any age. The key is to get your child to view spelling and writing as not only an imperative skill, but also something which can be learned in an enjoyable manner. Here are a few tips to help you achieve this:

- Help your child by writing words and sentences for them to copy
- Ask your child about the 'unlock' process that they are taught in all subject areas—unlocking vocabulary
- Encourage your child to be inspired by beautiful pieces of handwriting displayed in books, museums and galleries
- Encourage your child to speak in formal Standard English
- Test your child using the subject specific key words that are on our school website
- Encourage your child to write more, including letters/emails or even greeting cards using the correct formal language

Your Top 10 Tips for Spelling Success

- ⇒ Break it into **sounds** (d-i-a-r-y)
- ⇒ Break it into **syllables**
(re-mem-ber)
- ⇒ Break into **affixes** (dis + satisfy)
- ⇒ Use a **mnemonic** (**necessary**— one collar, two sleeves)
- ⇒ Refer to a **word** in the same family (muscle – muscular) (word webs)
- ⇒ Say it as it **sounds** (Wed-nes-day) (spell speak)
- ⇒ Words **within** words (Parliament – I AM)
- ⇒ Use **analogy/rhymes** (bright, light, right etc.)
- ⇒ Use a **key word** (horrible/ drinkable for -able & -ible/ advice/advise for -ice & -ise)
- ⇒ Visual **memory** (look cover, write, check)
- ⇒ Write the word in the air and say the letters simultaneously (Simultaneous Oral Spelling)

My Child is a Reluctant Reader. What Can I Do?

Take an interest in what your child is reading. Make sure you have lots of books and magazines around the house and show your child how to access eBooks.

Think about swapping the games console for a Kindle or e-reader!

Try to incorporate whole family 'reading time' into the daily routine.