

Headteacher: Dr. J Bartlett – NPQH, PGCE, D.Phil, M.Chem **Specialisms:** Mathematics

SIR/GBE

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to highlight the importance of reading and seek your support in nurturing your children's reading skills at home. Reading plays a fundamental role in a child's education and development, fostering imagination, critical thinking, and language proficiency. Allow me to share some facts and statistics to underscore the significance of this endeavour:

1. **Improved Academic Performance:** Studies have shown that children who read regularly perform better in school across various subjects. Reading enhances vocabulary, comprehension, and general knowledge, providing a strong foundation for academic success.
2. **Vocabulary Expansion:** Reading exposes children to a wide range of words, enabling them to expand their vocabulary. A robust vocabulary facilitates effective communication and helps children express themselves with confidence.
3. **Cognitive Development:** Reading stimulates cognitive abilities, such as memory, concentration, and problem-solving skills. It enhances mental agility and fosters analytical thinking, enabling children to approach challenges with creativity and resilience.
4. **Empathy and Emotional Intelligence:** Reading fiction nurtures empathy and emotional intelligence in children by allowing them to step into different characters' shoes and experience diverse perspectives. It encourages empathy, understanding, and respect for others.

To support your child's reading journey at home, here are some hints and tips:

1. **Make Reading a Routine:** Set aside a specific time for reading each day, creating a consistent and enjoyable reading routine. This can be before bedtime or during a quiet period when everyone can relax and immerse themselves in a good book.
2. **Provide a Reading-Friendly Environment:** Create a cosy reading corner with comfortable seating, good lighting, and a variety of age-appropriate books. Encourage your child to explore different genres and discover their interests.
3. **Engage in Shared Reading:** Take turns reading aloud with your child. This not only strengthens their reading skills but also provides an opportunity for discussion and bonding. Ask questions about the story, characters, and their opinions to enhance comprehension.
4. **Explore Phonics:** Phonics is a crucial aspect of reading development. Help your child understand phonemes (individual sounds) and graphemes (the corresponding written symbols). Practice blending sounds together and segmenting words into individual sounds (please see the following table). Encourage them to decode unfamiliar words independently.

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s sat	t tap	p pan	n nose	m mat	a ant	e egg	i ink	o otter
g goat	d dog	ck click	r run	h hat	u up	ai rain	ee knee	igh light
b bus	f farm	l lolly	j jam	v van	oa boat	oo cook	oo boot	ar star
w wish	x axe	y yell	z zap	qu quill	or fork	ur burn	ow now	oi boil
ch chin	sh ship	th think	th the	ng sing	ear near	air stair	ure sure	er writer

5. Visit Libraries and Bookstores: Regular visits to libraries and bookstores expose children to a vast array of books, fostering a love for reading. Encourage them to choose books that captivate their interest and challenge their reading abilities. The libraries most local to Shenley Academy are:

- Weoley Castle Library - 76 Beckbury Rd, Birmingham B29 5HR
- Selly Oak Library - 669 Bristol Rd, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 6AE
- Bartley Green Library - Adams Hill, Bartley Green, Birmingham B32 3QG
- The Orchard Learning Resource Centre - 986 Bristol Rd, Birmingham B29 6LB
- Northfield Library - 77 Church Rd, Birmingham B31 2LB
- Druid's Heath Library - 1 Idmiston Croft, Birmingham B14 5NJ

By actively participating in your child's reading journey, you can provide invaluable support and guidance. Together, we can empower them with the skills and passion for reading that will serve them throughout their lives.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to your child's education. Should you require any further guidance or resources, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Best wishes,

Simon Richardson
Assistant Headteacher