



# The Willows Primary School

## Parent Information Sheet 3

### Helping your child to become a reader

The Willow's Parent Information Sheets are designed to share news, ideas, and information, to help parents to have a shared understanding of some of the terms that are used in school. In this information sheet we look at how you can help your child improve their reading skills and become a child who reads for pleasure.

#### Encouraging your child to read

Reading helps your child's wellbeing, develops imagination and has educational benefits too. By making time to read with your child, for as little as 10 minutes a day can significantly boost how well they do at school. Set aside a regular time everyday to read with your child, whether it's for 10 minutes when they get in from school or reading a bedtime story together. Little and often works best!

#### Read aloud regularly

Try to read to your child every day. It's a special time to snuggle up on the sofa or tucked up in bed and just enjoy a story.

Stories matter and children love re reading them and repeating the rhythm of the language and poring over the pictures. Try adding funny voices to bring the characters to life!

#### Encourage reading a range of material

Give your child lots of opportunities to read different things in their own time – it doesn't always have to be a book.

There are such wide ranges of things to read such as fiction, non-fiction, poetry, comics, magazines, recipes and so much more.

Try leaving interesting reading material in different places around your home and see what they choose to pick up.

Why not put the subtitles on your TV – it's a great way to get them reading!

#### Read together

Choose a favourite time to read together as a family. This might be everyone reading the same book together, reading different things at the same time or getting your children to read to each other. This time spent reading together will build bonds between you all and can be relaxing for everyone.

#### Be role models

Show your children that you are a reader – talk about books that you have read and share stories. Children seeing adults read can have a profound effect.

#### Talk about books

This is a great way to make connection, develop understanding and make reading even more enjoyable. Start by discussing the front cover and talking about what it reveals and suggests the book could be about. Model reading the blurb – the information on the back cover. Talk about something that surprised or confused you in the story. You could also talk about how the book makes you feel.

#### Make use of your local library

You can enjoy your local library for free. Joining is simple and can be done online here [Joining the library](#). Once you have joined you can access brilliant online materials, including audiobooks and ebooks.

#### Access Free Books

Let your child access Accelerated reader at home <http://ukhosted73.renlearn.co.uk/2248281>

Access free books to read online or download PDF versions here [Free Children's Books - Stories, ebooks, textbooks, and much more \(freekidsbooks.org\)](#)

#### Make it fun!

Play games that involve making connections between pictures, objects and words, such as reading about an object and finding similar things in your home or the local environment. You could organise a treasure hunt related to what you have been reading. You could also create your own book by using photos from your day and adding captions.

#### Engage your child in reading in a way that suits them

You know your child best and you'll know the best times for your child to read. If they have special education needs and disabilities (SEND). Using short, creative activities may be a way of getting them interested.

If English is an additional language, encourage reading in your child's first language, as well as English. What matters most is that they enjoy it. HAPPY READING EVERYONE!