

How you can support reading



We can *all* have a positive impact on pupils' reading habits. There are lots of simple things you can do as a teacher or teaching assistant to raise the profile of reading and encourage good reading habits. Don't forget to work with your school librarian to support reading, if you have one!

Read children's books

Children's books can be hugely enjoyable and easy, quick reads. Not sure where to start? Try your school library if you have one. For a great starting point for brilliant writing, try some of these awards shortlists – Carnegie Medal, Children's Book Award, Branford Boase Book Award, Costa Book Awards, Little Rebels, Lollies or Waterstones Children's Book Prize to name a few. Check out www.lovereading4kids.co.uk, a fantastic website with loads of ideas. The more you read, the more you can recommend. It won't take long to read just *one* children's book over the term, whatever your reading habits are.

Not a reader?

Some people just don't read, but I think we all know the key benefits of reading and the difference being a reader can make to attainment and general well-being. The negative impact of *not* reading for pleasure is only now being fully appreciated. Perhaps you can rediscover the magic of stories with your class and maybe they'll show you just why reading is so good!

Celebrate a book of the week

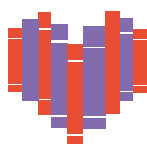
You can select one together, have a vote for the class favourite and share with the whole school. Talk about the book in question, read an extract, talk about the author and look at their website. Make sure you celebrate all kinds of reading and all types of books. Even just talking about books can raise awareness of reading and stories.

Read aloud

The benefits of reading aloud are proven – choose a book to read aloud every week during reading time across the term. Better still, invite your class to choose a book to read. Don't like reading aloud? Try an audiobook!



Love our
Libraries



Share your reading experiences

What are you reading? Tell pupils about it or tell them what books you enjoyed as a child. Pupils love recalling childhood favourites and share what they've been reading at home. Don't like fiction? What are your interests? Find non-fiction about what you love doing and share this with your class. What do they like doing? Find non-fiction books about their interests and share these.

Top 10

What are your class's favourite books? Create a top 10 based on their reading choices. Share them across the school and see if you can make a whole school top 10. See if you have copies of the books they've chosen in the school library and encourage the whole class to read them.

Currently reading

Put a poster up on your class or office door that says what you're currently reading. It's a simple and effective way to demonstrate your love of reading, and to be a positive role model for your pupils.

Displays

Reading for pleasure displays are a brilliant way to guide pupils. Put up posters and displays celebrating reading in your classroom (try these to help you <https://literacytrust.org.uk/resources/authors-inspiring-reading-classroom-posters/>). If you are putting up a subject-specific display, add book covers related to the topic to encourage pupils to see what non-fiction books are available. Get pupils involved in helping make reading displays – share their recommended reads and reviews of their favourite books and authors.

Use the library!

Do you have a school library? Do you have dedicated reading spaces in your school? Build in using these spaces to your daily routines, encourage pupils to get to know them and most importantly, give them time to browse the books and read. Peer-to-peer recommendation is important too, so give pupils opportunities to share their ideas.



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