



# SPELLBROOK C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL (vc)

*Learn together, Enjoy together, Succeed together*

----- The Parish of Great St Mary's -----

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Dear Parents

You probably already know that you should read with your child/children, but do you know why? Here are just a few good reasons:

- Book language uses a larger vocabulary and more complex grammatical structures than the spoken language that we use on a day to day basis. A wider vocabulary will help your child with their understanding of new concepts and with the quality of their writing.
- Fictional books can spark children's imaginations.
- Non-fiction books can increase knowledge, answer questions, and provide understanding for new concepts.
- Listening to children read shows the child a parent's/carer's willingness to listen.

Parents and carer's are important role models and can help to nurture a child's enjoyment of reading. Begin by having conversations, sharing picture books, nursery rhymes and by talking about the writing that we see around us every day (e.g. signs, labels, adverts).

When children begin to bring home reading books from the school reading scheme, as well as supporting with word reading, parents can help by: showing an interest in the book; asking questions about the book as they listen to the child read; support the child in recognizing how punctuation can guide the reader, for example pausing at full stops.

When children become fluent readers is still important for them to read at home and for them to have opportunities to discuss what they are reading in order that they can maximize on their comprehension of the text.

Reading is as much about the understanding of the text as about the reading of words. After all, without understanding there is little point in reading! With this in mind, we have **compiled a list of questions, attached** which we hope will help you to guide conversations that can be held about the books which your child is reading.

Reading is a life skill and learning to read is a key aspect of your child's education. At Spellbrook, we believe that this vital skill is best learnt by creating a strong partnership between school and home.

You may have seen stickers in reading diaries where children have not been reading regularly. Going forward, when three stickers have been put in children's books consecutively, we will be inviting parents to a meeting with staff to see how we can help in encouraging children to read at home.

We thank you for your support. Any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Mrs N Day**  
**Reading Subject Lead**

## Questions to Support Reading Comprehension

### **Explain – These questions are based around the understanding of vocabulary used in the text.**

Explain the meaning of ..... in this sentence.

What does this word/phrase/sentence, tell you about the character/setting/mood?

Which word tells us that ....?

What other words/phrases could the author have used?

### **Retrieve - Answers should use information provided by the text.**

What information tells you about .....

What did they have to do when .....

Why did .....

Where does the story takes place?

What does ..... look like?

Who is ..... ?

Where does ..... live?

What happened in the story?

Through whose eyes is the story told?

What is similar/different about two characters?

Where in the book would you find information about .....

### **Comparisons - Comparisons can be made between paragraphs, chapters or books.**

How is this text similar to .....

How is this setting/character similar/different to .....

### **Summarise**

What is the most important information in this paragraph/ page/ chapter?

What do you think has happened?

What was your favourite part of the story/text? Why?

### **Infer - A good understanding of the text is required to be able to infer meaning. Information from the text should be used as evidence to justify the answer (I know this because...).**

How can you tell that .....

How do you know that .....

How do you feel about .....

### **Predict - This is the child's own opinion**

Do you think the behaviour of ..... will change over time? What makes you think this?

What do you think will happen next? Why do you think this?

Why do you think the author chose to use: a question, bullet points, subheadings, a table to present this information?