

Parents information regarding home reading and spelling.

Reading

At the Winterton Federation, we foster a love of reading. Reading is the key to learning across the curriculum and is an essential tool for everyday life. With this in mind, we ask that children take a reading book home and complete reading tasks as homework.

It can sometimes be difficult to know the best way to support your child so we have some useful links you may want to explore in order to get the most out of home reading.

The Book Trust gives some practical advice and tips for reading with your child. Please follow the link below to find more information.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/reading-tips/#>

Bloom's Taxonomy is a useful way of helping children to learn. It uses a range of questioning to help children to develop their understanding and reasoning of a book. Below, are some sample questions that you may find useful when listening to your child or reviewing a book with them.

Bloom's Taxonomy Questions for Reading	
Remembering When and where did the story take place? Who are the main characters? What does the main character look like? How does the book begin? Where in the book would you find...?	Understanding What is the book about? From whose point of view is the story told? What is happening? What might this mean? Which part do you like best? Why?
Applying Can you think of another story with a similar theme? Can you think of another story character similar to a character in this book? Have you had any similar experiences? Which stories have openings like this? Can you think of another author who writes in a similar style?	Analysis How has the author used description to show how this character is feeling? How does the layout help...? Can you explain why...? Why did the author choose these words? What evidence can you use to support your view?
Evaluating Which text/story is better? Why? Which parts of the text could be improved? Which text is more persuasive? Why? Did it have an effective ending? Who would you recommend this to?	Creating Using the evidence in the text, what do you think about...? If you were the main character, how would you have reacted to this? What would this character think? Are there any other reasons why this might have happened? Have the views in this text affected your opinion? Why? How?

Spelling

Your child will bring spelling home on a weekly basis from Year 2 - 6. Below, are some fun ideas on how to support your child with learning them.

Spelling Strategies to Use at Home

A Guide for Parents

Learning to spell correctly is a crucial skill for life. Children begin to learn the basics of the language as soon as they start school, and their skills and knowledge build as they progress. However, the English language is one of the most difficult languages in the world to learn to spell, as there are so many different ways of spelling the same sounds, and different sounds represented by the same letter strings!

Many words in the English language follow specific rules, and children will be taught these rules at school. However, some words just have to be learnt, and the weekly spelling list can often be greeted with dread by parents!

If you and your child are looking for some new and fun ways to get the spellings of words learnt, try these:

Use each word in a silly sentence. The sillier the sentence, the more memorable. Underline the spelling word in each sentence.

Play hangman with a partner, using your words.

Write a sentence or short paragraph that contains every single one of your words.

Make up a code for your words e.g. A=1, B=2 and so on. See if someone else can crack your code.

Write each word and incorporate it into a silly picture. For example, if one of the words is 'thumb' draw a hand with the word itself instead of the thumb.

Play charades with the words. When each one is guessed, spell it.

Make a mini-dictionary. Sort the words into alphabetical order then write them out with a definition next to each one. For a challenge, see if you can also say whether each word is a noun, verb, adjective etc.

Make a word search with your words and list them underneath.

Paint your words onto paper, write them in water with a big brush onto the outside wall of the house, or write them on the ground with coloured chalks.

Ask your helper to write your words as anagrams (mixing up the letters) Can you work out which one is which?

Write out the letters in the words with different coloured felt-tips or pencil crayons.

Write out the words on the computer. Use different fonts and different colours for the different letters.

Your child will have their own favourites, but experiment with a variety of strategies so that learning the spellings is part of a game rather than a chore.