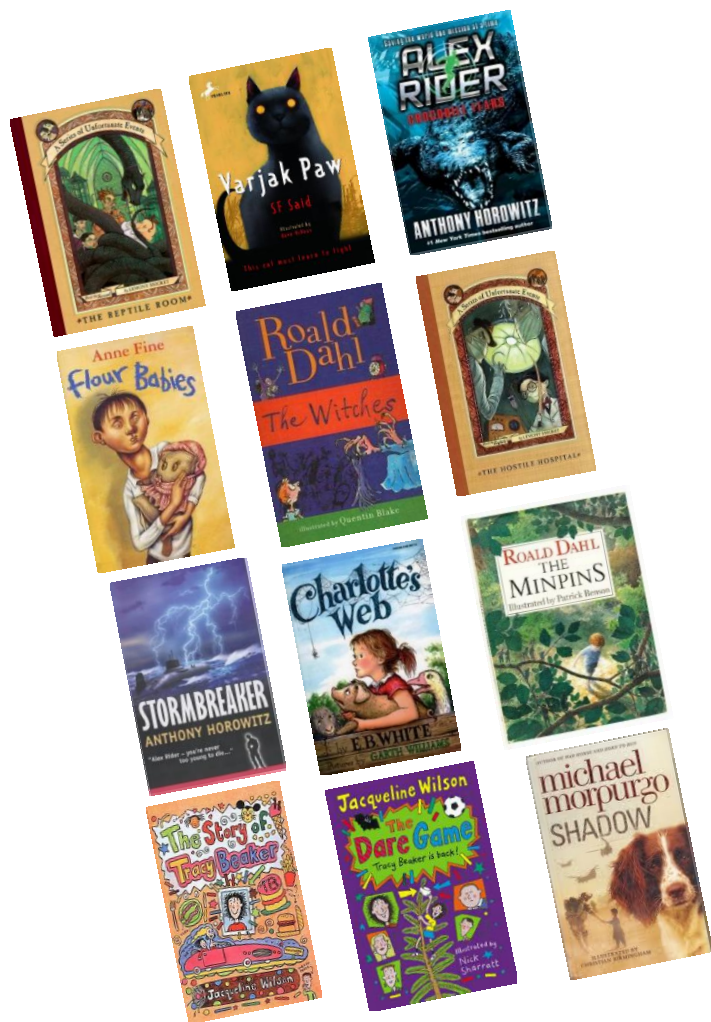




FAIRCHILDES PRIMARY SCHOOL



Reading Skills to Develop – (These are taken from the end of Year 4 Expected Standards.)

- Reading shows understanding through tone, volume and action.
- Check that the text makes sense, discuss understanding of a text.
- Explain the meaning of a word, using the rest of the sentence to support.
- Ask/come up with questions to improve understanding.
- Predict what might happen next based on details mentioned previously.
- Begin to prepare texts to read aloud. (Poems etc.)
- Compare stories to own experience.
- Compare stories to previously read books.
- Think about how characters are feeling and be able to explain how you know.
- Identify interesting words and talk about why they make the sentence better.

By the end of Year 4, children could be beginning to read larger chapter books relatively independently. They should be able to discuss a book and talk about characters' feelings and emotions. They should be able to discuss the plot and make predictions and inferences.

Reading can come in all shapes and sizes. Reading is not just limited to story books. Encourage children to read as many different things as possible. These could include: Newspapers, sports results, adverts, instructions, recipes, letters, online articles, magazines, comics and the list goes on!

Reading in Year Four

Reading a book together

- Let the reading time be short (about 15-20 minutes), enjoyable and stress free for both you and your child.
- Choose a time when your child is willing and not too tired.
- Talk about the book and discuss characters.
- Make sure you are supporting your child when they first encounter a new word. Discuss what it means. Encourage use of a dictionary or look up the meaning online.
- Model the reading by reading aloud and taking it in turns. This means your child can develop both speaking and listening skills.
- Remember that understanding the story is more important than reading every word correctly. Because comprehension is about understanding what has been read.
- Encourage your child to talk about characters and their dilemmas within the story. Discuss how the character is feeling and how the book makes your child feel.
- Children in year 4 should be sounding words aloud independently to read. It is good to support them with this if necessary it is very important to explain what these words mean.
- Above all always use plenty of praise and encouragement. Play games, use voices for characters and overall make it FUN!

Children can listen and read stories in many different ways. If getting time to go and find copies of books is difficult then you can always download them onto mobiles, tablets or laptops and access them this way.

As their reading progresses encourage your child to:

- Suggest how the story might end, alternative endings, how it could be improved. They could write their own if they want.
- Cover a word and think of another that would improve the sentence. (E.g. change nice to splendid).
- Discuss characters: what are they like and how are they feeling.
- Make links to other books, for example by the same author or on the same subject, and to their own experiences.
- Pay attention to the punctuation, speech bubbles and so on, using different voices for different characters and reading for meaning.
- Use the correct terminology such as author, illustrator, contents and index.
- Express opinions about the book and who they would recommend it to.
- Use the theme of the book to write their own version. Perhaps use a different setting or characters.
- Read to younger members of the family. This helps to develop confidence and pride in reading.

Reading in real-life contexts

Let your child see you read, and share it with them, for example reading a recipe, reading the newspaper headlines, reading the destination on the bus, reading shop signs and labels on items in the shop. Choose a word that they may have been learning in their book, or from their high frequency words, to notice. Some children may prefer to read a comic, non-fiction book or use an internet game. Variety is very important.

Reading a story book together

Part of learning to read is developing a love of books because it creates the motivation to learn. 'Story books' give them a flavour of the wealth of literature that they will one day be able to access independently. It is very important to read to your child as well as listen to them reading. This can be a cosy, bedtime activity for sharing and enjoyment of a book. The child can be the listener and will learn a great deal from hearing an experienced reader read aloud, such as seeing how the pages are turned, how expression is used and different voices used for different characters, how the plot develops and so on. With a new book you may want to ask your child how they think the story will end, about whether they liked the story or particular characters. By joining the library, your child can enjoy reading and choosing their own books, CDs, DVDs and use the internet, and there are often activities run in the holidays. Charity shops and car boot sales are another source of inexpensive books, or maybe your child could swap favourite books with a friend.

Games to encourage reading

- Draw pictures and create storyboards. Anything that will develop your child's imagination around a story. It is interesting to see what they think characters look like!
- Rhyming games: find as many rhyming words as you can in one minute. Make it a competition as your child will love to beat you!
- Recipes! - This is a great way for children to experience reading in a real life context. They also get a yummy treat!
- Role play- You could both pretend to be characters from the story and act out a normal situation in role. This will develop your child's understanding of character. Get them to explain why they have done things.
- Scanning games: children like to be challenged to find things within a time limit. Find something on a page and give your child 10-20 seconds to find it. Keep score!

Recommended reads for Year 4 children

Roald Dahl – there are many Roald Dahl books, including quick reads such as 'Fantastic Mr Fox' and 'The Magic Finger' along with longer novels including 'Matilda' and 'BFG'.

SF Said – 'Varjak Paw', 'The Outlaw Varjak Paw' and 'Phoenix' are just some of the available titles.

Dick King-Smith - appropriate titles include 'The Sheep Pig' and 'The Finger Eater'.

Michael Morpurgo – Michael Morpurgo has written a huge range of books which appeal to both adults and children.

Lemony Snicket – 'A Series of Unfortunate Events.'

Anne Fine – Quick reads such as 'Loudmouth Louis' and 'A Diary of a Killer Cat.'

Anthony Horowitz - Alex Rider series.

Many authors write for both children and adults. It is important to select books with care.

