

It's never too late to learn to read. If you find reading difficult or English is not your first language and you would like to find out how to help yourself and your child, there are lots of people who can support. Speak to a member of staff to find out more.



Talk about books

There is more to being a good reader than just being able to read the words accurately. Just as important is being able to understand what has been read. Always talk to your child about the book; about the pictures, the characters, how they think the story will end, and their favourite part. Use questions to check their understanding. You will then be able to see how well they have understood and you will help them to develop good comprehension skills.

Variety is important

Remember children need to experience a variety of materials e.g. picture books, hard backs, comics, magazines, poems, and information books. Reading can also be done electronically on a screen! It doesn't matter what a child reads, as long as he or she is reading.



Hollymount School



Top 10 Tips to help your child become a reader

Learning to become a fluent reader is the most valuable skill we can give our children. As parents, you are their first and most important teacher!

Choose a quiet time

Set aside a quiet time with no distractions. Ten to fifteen minutes is usually long enough.

Make reading enjoyable

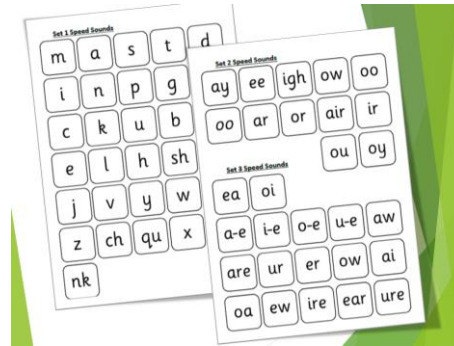
Make reading an enjoyable experience. Sit with your child. Try not to pressurise if he or she is reluctant. If your child loses interest then do something else.

Read to your child – they are never too old!

All children love stories – whether they are read or listened to. It is never too early or late to start sharing books with your child. Even when they can read for themselves, they will benefit from hearing stories read and sharing the experience.

Be patient

Reading is difficult. Every child will progress at their own pace and some find it easier than others. Encourage children to use letter sounds to read unknown words.



Maintain the flow

If your child mispronounces a word do not interrupt immediately. Instead allow opportunity for self-correction. Let children have-a-go for themselves but then help them so as to maintain the flow or to avoid frustration.

Visit the library

Encourage your child to use the school and public library regularly. The school library is open to older children every lunchtime. Younger children can visit with their teacher.

Regular practice

Try to read with your child every day - 'little and often' is best.

Communicate

Your child will have a home reading diary from school. Try to communicate regularly with positive comments. Your child will then know that you are interested in their progress and that you value reading. Don't hesitate to speak to your child's teacher if concerns arise.

