



Maryport Church of England Junior School

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'Working together to be the best we can be'

Dear Parents/ Carers,

The importance of reading to a child or listening to a child read cannot be emphasised enough. Reading well is a key to success in school, in national SATs test and in life in general!

In school we provide many opportunities to improve reading skills and to foster a general love for reading. As you are aware we are awarding raffle tickets for children who read three times or more per week. This is to reward those who are developing their reading skills further at home as well as at school.

It will hugely benefit your child to read aloud to you rather than silently in their heads. Even when your child becomes a 'fluent' reader, there is no way to tell that a child understands the text unless you hear them read and discuss their reading with them. Many children find it very difficult to answer questions in test situations (such as SATS) when they do not have enough experience of discussing new words and ideas from texts.

Hearing your child read out loud is equally (if not more) important when they are in year 6 as the texts become more challenging and include more unknown words.

There are numerous downfalls to silent reading:

- Silent reading allows children to read quickly, causing them to often miss the main idea of the passage.
- Silent reading allows students to skip words that they do not know. When children come across difficult words, the child should re-read the sentence and try to figure out the unknown word through context. We do know if children re-read for meaning when they read silently.
- Silent reading allows children to mispronounce words which hampers their understanding.
- Silent reading does not teach children to read with expression.
- Silent reading does not encourage children to listen to themselves when they read, which helps them to correct their errors and ensures that their reading makes sense.

Please help your child to develop their skills by discussing the books that they are reading with you. Ask questions, make predictions and 'figure out' the meaning of new and challenging vocabulary together. Please sign your child's home – school reading journal when the reading and discussions have been completed.

Thank you for your continued support,

All staff at Maryport CE Junior School

