

West Ewell Infants School
Ideas for Year 1 parents



- Look for opportunities to talk about numbers. If you see numbers, can your child read them? What is the next number, or the one before? Use vocabulary of **more/less/fewer/most/fewest**. Encourage adding by counting on in their head, counting in **2s, 5s and 10s forwards and backwards**. Try to involve word problems in everyday situations. E.g. **If I have this pizza and it needs to be cut into quarters and I have 12 toppings. How can I fairly share out the toppings?**
- Share books with your child – read to them and talk about the story. Discuss what you like/dislike about the books. Try to use a selection of questions to encourage the child to infer from the text. (Make a presumption of what the answer could be based on the information given) E.g. **Did Callum do the right thing? What makes you think that? How did everyone feel about the decision he made? If the decision was the opposite, what might have happened?**
- Reading every day for 5 to 10 minutes – regular reading practice is vital to support their progress. Those children who read every day are more likely to become confident readers by the end of Year 1 giving them a solid basis for their future learning.
- Help your child to practise reading and spelling the first **100 High Frequency words** at speed. If they can recognise them on sight, reading fluency will be greatly improved.
- **'Gimme 5'** – strategies for reading unfamiliar words.
 1. Think about it – does the word they said make sense?
 2. Look at the picture – What is happening in the picture that can give a clue.
 3. Sound it out – this works well as long as it is not a 'tricky' word.
 4. Go forward – miss out the tricky word and carry on reading the rest of the sentence. Can you think of what might make sense in the gap?
 5. Go back – Go back and re-read the sentence – this helps them to make sense of what they have just read.
- Encouraging correct tripod pencil grip – the more a child holds their pencil correctly, the more natural it will be to them.
- Encouraging correct letter and number formation when writing at home. If they reverse some letters ask them to re-write it 5 times to develop fluency in writing the letter and hopefully encourage them to get out of the habit.