

Greens Norton CE Primary School

Supporting your child at home with

Reading



Spellings

Times tables



A helpful practical guide for parents and
carers of children in Key Stage 2



KS2 Reading Vipers



In order to develop your child's reading comprehension, we are focusing on six key reading skills in school. These skills are easily remembered using the mnemonic vipers, as illustrated below;

Vocabulary **I**fer **P**redict **E**xplain **R**etrieve **S**ummarise

It is vital that even our older children have opportunities to regularly discuss their reading with an adult. Talking about reading ensures that children do not fall into the trap of purely decoding words on a page, without truly understanding what is happening. Reading comprehension can also be built when **you** read to your child and then discuss the content. Below are some question stems that can be used to develop each of the vipers reading skills. For more detail please speak to your child's teacher.

Vocabulary

- What do the words and suggest about the character, setting and mood?
- Which word tells you that....?
- Find and highlight the word that is closest in meaning to.....

Infer

- How do these words make the reader feel? How does this paragraph suggest this?
- How do the descriptions of show that they are?
- What impression of do you get from these paragraphs?

Predict

- From the cover what do you think this text is going to be about?
- What does this paragraph suggest will happen next? What makes you think this?
- Explain your answer using evidence from the text.

Explain

- What is the purpose of this text feature?
- The mood of the character changes throughout the text. Find and copy the phrases which show this.
- What affect does have on the audience?
- Which section was the most interesting/exciting part?
- How are these sections linked?

Retrieve

- How would you describe this story/text? What genre is it? How do you know?
- Who had...? Who is...? Who did....? What does.... do?
- What happened to...?
- What can you learn from from this section?
- The story is told from whose perspective?

Summarise

- What happened after?
- What was the first thing that happened in the story?
- Can you summarise in a sentence the opening/middle/end of the story?

KS2 Spelling



Children can find writing a challenge; they need encouragement, support and praise for their efforts. You can best support them by encouraging them to write on every possible occasion, praising their efforts and, importantly, by letting them see you writing whenever possible. You can play word games with them (e.g. I spy; Find the word puzzles), you can also discuss interesting or new words. Even some of the greatest authors, like the creator of Winnie the Pooh, struggled. *“My spelling is wobbly. It is good spelling, but it wobbles and the letters get in the wrong places.”* A. A. Milne

Most of us, even if we consider ourselves to be good spellers, make spelling mistakes at some point. What is important is that we know what to do when we are stuck and we know how to correct our mistakes. At school, our children learn the rules, conventions and spelling strategies needed to become confident at spelling. Here are a few ideas that children can use with your support at home to help them with spelling practice.

- Write a story using as many of the words as you can.
- Make a word search using all of the words.
- Take a practice test.
- Use Scrabble tiles to spell out the word.
- Write each word and circle the vowels or consonants.
- Create a cheerleader chant (Give me an S, give me a P, give me an E, give me an L, give me an L, what does it spell? SPELL!)
- Record yourself saying and spelling out the words. Then, listen back to the spellings.
- Write a letter to someone using as many of the words as you can.
- On a long journey, spell the words aloud or write them on the window with your finger.
- Write a list of the words in different orders (alphabetical, or from longest to shortest)
- Play Hangman/Funny Faces with one of the words.
- Combine spellings and physical activity! Spell out a word a letter at a time as you bounce a ball, do jumping jacks, walk down the stairs, skip, jump etc.
- Type the words up using a computer.
- Write the words out in bubble writing.
- Write the words in silly, colourful letters.
- Play noughts and crosses with someone. In order to get the nought or cross in your chosen square, you need to write one of your spelling words first.
- Get some chalk and write the words in the gar-den.
- Write the words in different sizes. Firstly, as small as you can, then normal writing and finally jumbo sized writing.
- Write the words with your other hand.
- Spell the words aloud with someone. Take it in turns to say a letter each.
- Make up a way to remember a tricky word (because– **big** elephants **cause** accidents under small elephants)



Useful websites:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/spellits/index.shtml>

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/topics/zhrd2p>

<http://www.crickweb.co.uk/ks2literacy.html>

<http://www.primarygames.com/see-n-spell/see-n-spell.htm>



KS2 Times Tables



In order to develop your child's mathematical skills, it is vital for them to gain fluency in the times tables, including multiplication and division facts right up to 12×12 . We have a limited amount of lesson time in which to focus on these and so your support at home really is important. We encourage the children through our Times Table reward system in which the children can achieve bronze, silver and gold awards in each of the stages – 2, 5 and 10s; 3s and 4s; 6, 7, 8 and 9s; 11s and 12s. Further hints and tips to help your child in simple but fun ways are listed below:

Start simple

The 2s, 5s and 10s times table are a great place to start – whether it's just a recap or confidence builder, these can help with more complex multiplication tables such as 4s and 8s.

Display them

Multiplication posters are available to buy however you could just print some off the internet or even allow you child to make their own! Lots of multiplication and division activities are free to download online and print e.g. <https://garyhall.org.uk/times-table-colouring.html>

Make it real

Try to take opportunities to get your child to use multiplication in everyday activities, such as baking or using and scaling a recipe. Counting objects or toys and sorting LEGO can also be really helpful. Ask questions e.g. *'this pasta serves four, how many packets do we need to buy to serve 12 of us for dinner?'* They might not even notice they are doing maths!

Practise them

Practise these times table with your child as a filler activity. This could be on a short car journey or waiting for an appointment! It's always better (for you and your child) to go over them little and often rather than in one large chunk.

Play games

Make it fun and part of everyday life! Create your own game or play a form of Bingo or Pairs. These can be easily accessible and really help your child enhance their multiplication skills. A game is suggested using a pack of cards: *Two players draw a card from a deck. They then flip their cards over and the first person to correctly guess the total of the two cards multiplied together gets to put the cards in their winning pile. For example, if a 3 of hearts and a 7 of diamonds are flipped over, the first person who says 21 gets to keep the two cards. The person with the most cards in their winning pile at the end of the game wins.*

Use technology

The internet can be a really useful learning tool. Times table videos are free to watch and listen to on YouTube, Laugh along and Learn and Reggae beats are just some examples. Websites such as <https://www.timestables.co.uk/> and <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/times-tables> are educational and easy to navigate! Apps are available to download on tablets such as DK's 10 Minutes a Day Times Tables.

Be positive

Encourage your child with the facts they find tricky and make it fun and tailored to suit you and your child. Have fun with it; little and often is better. You could even set up your own achievements/rewards.

Any other questions or queries please feel free to ask us!

KS2 Teachers ☺