



CHRIST CHURCH CofE VC JUNIORS

Value - Engage - Inspire - Create

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Reading At Home

Dear parents/carers,

On the back of this letter, we have attached some reading question prompts that you can ask your child when reading at home; we hope you find them useful. They are organised by skill so that you can help your child make progress with the comprehension skills taught in class:

Retrieval <i>Finding basic information in the text</i>	Inference <i>Giving your own opinions about characters/events, using evidence from the book to support your ideas</i>	Word Meaning <i>Explaining the meaning of unfamiliar words in context e.g. by reading the whole sentence</i>
Author's choice <i>Explaining the reasons why an author may have chosen a particular word</i>	Summarising <i>Being able to retell the key events in a chapter or whole book in the correct order with a suitable amount of detail</i>	Predicting <i>Using evidence from the text or their knowledge of similar books to make sensible predictions</i>

We expect that all children should be reading and discussing their book with an adult at home at least **5 times a week**. We cannot stress enough how important this is for ensuring that children are able to access the more challenging curriculum when they start secondary school. Children should be reading a range of age-appropriate texts, making sure that they read different styles of books by a range of authors.

We recommend making reading part of your child's daily routine and choosing somewhere comfortable and quiet where there are no distractions. If you or another adult (or even an older brother or sister) can listen to your child read, this will help show that reading is an important skill worth spending time on!

Although many children in the Upper Band are reading regularly, we have noticed that most children are completing their reading records themselves. Whilst this is a great way for your child to develop independent learning habits, it is also important that they are getting regular opportunities to discuss their reading with an adult. This term, we hope to see **at least 2 comments per week** in your child's reading record by an adult which show that your child has had a chance to discuss vocabulary, make a prediction about what might happen next, give their opinion of characters or summarise the key points of a book or chapter.

Included below are some examples of comments that would be appropriate for your child's reading record:

- *We discussed the meaning of the word 'entice'.*
- *Harry said he didn't like Tom in the story because he thought he was mean when he hid Bob's jumper.*
- *We discussed what happened next. Amy said she thinks that they will be rescued because it mentioned a lifeguard earlier in the chapter.*
- *On page 6, Amber identified that Mark was angry because he bit his bottom lip tightly.*



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If your child has lost their reading record, please ask them to ask their class teacher for a new one. Don't forget that our library is now open every Wednesday morning before school at 8:30am. Our librarian will be happy to help you and your child find a book that your child will enjoy.

Thank you for your continued support.

The Upper Band Team

Mr Desmond, Miss Harris, Miss Harrison, Miss Wallbridge and Mr MacDonald



Useful questions to ask when reading:

Summary (retelling)

- Can you tell me what happened in this page/chapter?
- What was the most interesting bit? Why?

Retrieval (finding information)

- Where does it say..?
- Who/what/where/ when?

Inference (using evidence)

- Why does/why is...?
- How do you think that character is feeling?
- Why do you think that?
- What clues are there?
- How might you feel?

Word meanings

- What does this word mean?
- Have you heard it before?
- What could it mean?
- Can you read the whole sentence and work out the meaning?

Predicting

- What do you think this book is about?
- What do you think might happen next?
- What clues are there?

Enjoyment

- Which bit do you like best? Why?

Some more retrieval questions

- Where and when did the story take place?
- What word told you that?
- What did s/he/it look like?
- Who was s/he/it?
- Can you name the....?
- Where did s/he/it live?
- Who are the characters in the book?
- What did ... do/ask?
- What happened after/at...?
- How many....?
- Describe what happened at....
- Who spoke to?
- Where did ... go?
- Can you tell me why?
- Which is true or false.....?

Some more inference questions

- Why did that happen?
- How might they feel?
- Why do you think they...?
- If this was you – how would your friends react?
- How do we know that?
- If you were in _____'s shoes what would you do now?
- What do you think...?
- What was _____ thinking as he...? How do you know?