Guidance for Parents

In Key Stage 2, reading is not just being able to say the words on the page and recall simple facts about a story. You can help your child to progress by asking questions and asking them to prove their ideas. They should be able to explain their ideas and justify their responses with clear evidence from the text.

Question Guidance

Give/explain the meaning of words in context

- What does this word/phrase/sentence tell you about character/setting/mood etc?
- Highlight the key phrase or line which means x.
- What words has the writer used to show how the character feels?

Retrieve and record information/identify key details from fiction and non-fiction

- Where does the story take place?
- Who are the characters in the book?

Any question where the child can find the answer in the text.

Summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph

- What is the main point in this paragraph?
- Can you sum up what happened in these three/four/five paragraphs?
- Can you sum up these paragraphs in x number of words?

Make inference from the text/explain and justify inference with evidence from text [any question where the answer is not directly in the text but there will be evidence to support the pupil's answer].

- What makes you think that?
- Which words give you that impression?
- What is the character feeling and how do you know

Predict what may happen from details stated and implied and compare across the text.

- Can you think of another story which has a similar theme? eg good over evil, weak over strong, wise over foolish and do you think this story will end in the same way?
- Do you know of another story which deals with the same issue? eg social, moral, cultural.
- How has the character/ mood changed from the beginning?

Fluency Guidance

When reading fluently, the reading will flow smoothly with a varied volume and expression taking into account punctuation. They will read at a conversational pace. A confident reader will self-correct.

Strategies to support

If you notice your child struggles with any of the above, you can model one sentence to them emphasising the way it should be read and they can repeat it mirroring your style. This is called echo reading.

If they are having difficulty following the text and they lose their place, please encourage them to slow down and use a ruler or their finger to keep track.