Supporting your child’s reading in Year 5

Learning to read is a significant milestone in any child’s life, and one that will bring many benefits over an entire lifetime. You play an important role in modelling reading behaviours and supporting your child’s reading efforts. You make a difference to how your child will discover the world of literacy and how they view themselves as a reader.

What can you do to help your child become a reader?
What can you do to help support your child’s reading skills?

In Year 5 your child will:

Vocabulary
- choose words that help an audience to develop understanding
- make and use new words by adding meaningful beginnings or endings (un, pre, dis, ness, ful)

Comprehension
- carry out research using a range of reading material
- provide proof from the reading material to support opinions
- discuss main themes and perspectives

Reading texts
- read out loud with effective speed, expression and accuracy
- read for 20-30 minutes at a time
- remember information from their readings
- find information within short chapter books
- read real-life stories, poetry, artistic and electronic reading material

Ways you can help your child’s reading in Year 5

Keep sharing Reading books to your child that are more complex than their reading ability exposes them to rich vocabulary, complex concepts and experiences beyond their reality.

Prefix hunt Encourage your child to find a prefix at the beginning of a word like pre or un or dis. Have your child explain how the prefix helps them to understand what the word means.

Suffix swap Play games with base words and practise swapping various common suffix endings to create new words, for example, the word play plus common suffix endings becomes played, playing, player, playful. Sleep plus common suffix endings becomes sleeper, sleeping, sleepless.

Predict Good readers are always thinking ‘what will happen next?’ and piecing together information to make sense of the story. Ask questions like, ‘I wonder what would happen if…’ or ‘why do you think…?’ or ‘who do you think might…?’

Patch the gaps When your child is struggling, help them by taking over the reading or reading with them until they start to enjoy it again. Remember reading with your child should be enjoyable.

Express yourself! Use a device to record your child’s reading, have them listen back to it and reflect on their fluency, expression, pace and accuracy. Have your child incorporate their own feedback and record again.

Talk to your child’s teacher about how you can support your child’s reading.