

Punctuation: When is it taught?

Reception

full stop .

Year 1 and 2 (as above, plus)

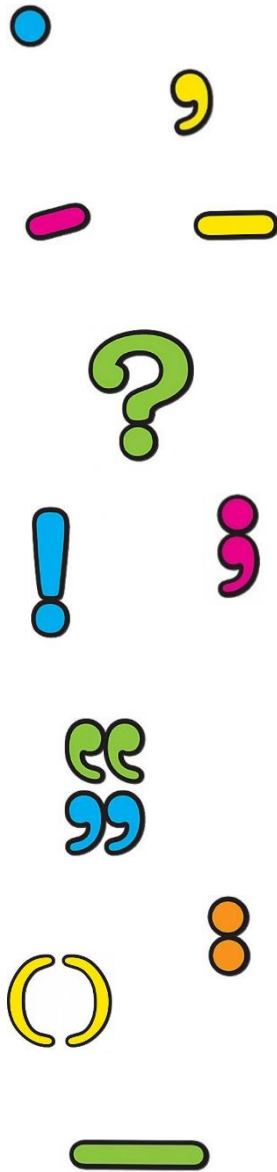
- comma ,
- exclamation mark !
- question mark ?

Year 3 and 4 (as above, plus)

- inverted commas “ ”
- apostrophe '

Year 5 and 6 (as above, plus)

- semi colon ;
- colon :
- bullet points •
- dashes -
- brackets ()
- ellipsis ...



Fairhaven Primary A Guide To

Reading



At Home

Why is reading with my child at home important?

Studies show that developing reading skills at primary school is one of the best ways to secure academic success at secondary school. But what does developing reading skills really mean? The answer to that question is many things!

The art of decoding

To begin with, children need to learn our phonetical code. This is the sounds individual and groups of letters make. Children need to learn how to break words into sounds and then know how to blend these sounds together. We teach this skill from Reception through to Year 2. At Fairhaven, we use a programme of phonics called Read, Write, Inc. It is only when children master this initial stage of reading that the true art of reading can begin.

Knowing what words mean

Reading only makes sense if we can understand what we have read, and to understand what we read we need to know the meaning of words. Take this sentence:

The rhinoceros's leathery skin was covered in parasites.

A child in Year 2 may be able to confidently read aloud this sentence but they will only understand it if they know what the words leathery and parasite mean. Developing a child's vocabulary is essential if they are to become accomplished readers.

Knowing what a sentence implies

When reading stories, so much of the meaning isn't actually written down at all. Writers are clever at using words to communicate a

Talk about any shared experiences

Think about connections between your lives and the events in the book. Maybe the characters have gone to the beach or been out on a cold, windy day and you too have experienced this together. Talk about how you felt on that occasion – it will all help your child to understand and enjoy the book more.



Authors

It is good for your child to know who wrote the book. If you have enjoyed the book, you might want to read another one by the same author.

Understanding the use of punctuation

The symbols we use within writing help us to understand the meaning of sentences. Let's compare these two sentences.

1. *William brought an extra large pizza.*
2. *William brought an extra-large pizza.*

The words are the same, but the sentences have different meanings purely because of the addition of a hyphen in the second example. Children need to notice and understand the punctuation as well as the words. During their time at Fairhaven, children are taught all types of punctuation.



child's education. When you read to your child you are making a positive impact on your child's reading ability and their love of reading. Reading a book and chatting about it is a great way to develop your child's vocabulary and inference skills.

Asking questions / talking about the book

The more you chat about the book, whether it is an information book or a story book, the more you are developing your child's reading skills. Many studies tell us that it is the back and forth talk between adults and children when they are sharing books that makes the difference to children's language and comprehension.



Book Talk

Developing vocabulary

Whilst you are reading, choose one or two words to discuss. Check your child knows what the word means. Try to use the word another time during the week to remind them of a new word they have learnt.

Talk about the characters

Ask question like: *How do you think (name of character) felt when that happened? Who was your favourite character? What did you like about them?* Share your thoughts too and explain what words or phrases helped you to come to that idea.

What do you think will happen next?

Ask your child to predict the next part in the story. To do this your child needs to have an overall understanding of the story so far and talking about it will help them to deepen their understanding.

character's feelings or the atmosphere of a setting. A lot of our discussions in school during reading lessons is about what is implied but never written.

Keep reading

We frequently find that, as children become fluent decoders, parents/carers don't listen to their child read as often. **However, the most important thing that parents/carers can do to support their child's education is continue to listen to them read - out loud - at least three times a week - until they leave primary school.** Most lessons contain an element of reading and therefore children who do not have a comprehensive set of reading skills are at a disadvantage.



What type of books will my child bring home?

Books that the School Choose: Reading to Develop Fluency

Whilst your child is learning to decode, they will bring home a book matched to their reading ability. If your child is in Sycamore or Chestnut Class, this will be a Read, Write, Inc book and it will match the reading they are doing

that week in their phonics lessons. Not all children complete the Read, Write Inc at the same point. Some will finish towards the end of Year 1, for most it will be in Year 2 or it could be in Year 3. Once children have finished the Read, Write Inc programme teachers will continue to send a reading book home that corresponds to their reading level. At some point they will become a free reader. This is usually in Year 5 or 6.

Books that the Child Chooses for Themselves: Reading for Pleasure

Whilst we want to progressively build on children's reading skills, we also want them to experience choosing their own books to read or have read to them. All pupils can use our school library to do this. They don't have to be a free reader. Our library is open after school between 3:30 and 4:00 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, so feel free to come in and browse with your child and enjoy choosing books together.

Does the type of book matter?

Let your child be in charge of the books they choose. Enjoyment really matters. Comics, information books, magazines, story books, picture books, poems and leaflets are all great for sharing.



Non-Fiction Books

There is so much that children can learn from reading information books. Children are naturally inquisitive and generally love finding out facts about animals, space and gruesome people from the past. Whatever your child is interested in, enjoy finding out about it together.

Fiction Books

For most of our children, the world is still a very small place. The places, people and cultures they are familiar with are relatively few. Fictional stories can help to introduce them to the wider world, allowing them to experience what it is like to live in a different country or culture. The best fiction focuses on telling a good story that the reader is absorbed by and feels connected to, regardless of whether it is set in an Amazonian jungle or their own home town.

Poetry

Try reading some poetry together. Reading poetry out loud can be really fun.

Peas & Honey (by Ogden Nash)

I eat my peas with honey.
I've done it all my life.
It makes the peas taste funny.
But it keeps them on the knife!

What if they always want the same book?

Repeating reading of books, especially when children are young, is really beneficial for children. It helps them memorise parts of the story, as well as learning words and phrases. Knowing a book or poem by heart is fun and powerful for children because they can "read" the story with you.

Does my child always have to do the reading?

Absolutely not! Reading to your child is one of the best things you can do to help them succeed at school. Sharing books makes a big difference to your