

FREE Books for schools



Dear Parent/Carer,

We would like to take this opportunity to let you know about the **Box Tops for Books** scheme, which we are participating in this year. It is an initiative from Nestlé offering a wide range of new books from the leading children's publisher Dorling Kindersley in exchange for tokens from the top of Nestlé cereal boxes.

Box Tops for Books supports the teaching of literacy, for example through the National Curriculum or the Curriculum for Excellence in Scotland, by providing a broad selection of books that inspire, teach, amuse and challenge. The scheme can help children to develop their powers of imagination and critical awareness and to develop their speaking and listening skills. Many of the books on offer also relate to a wide range of other subjects such as history, geography and science, so will contribute to learning across the curriculum.

You can view the types of books that are available by visiting www.boxtops4books.co.uk. The scheme runs from 1st September 2011 until 31st March 2012.

It takes as little as 10 tokens to get one book, so the more tokens we collect the more books we can receive for our library. This is where we need your help and support to make the most of the scheme.

If your family eats Nestlé cereals, please remember to tear off the token on the top of the box and bring it into school. If you would like to find out more about which Nestlé brands are included in the scheme, please visit www.boxtops4books.co.uk.

As well as information about the scheme, the website has lots of tips about how you can support your child's reading at home. There are also fun, interactive storybooks – 'Fast and slow' and 'Goldilocks' – for 5-7 year-olds.

There are some ideas below to help you support your child's reading.

Top three tips

Things to remember whatever age your children are:

- 1 **Read every day:** read aloud to your children and encourage them to read to you.
- 2 **Have all sorts of books at home:** borrow books from the library or give as gifts and help your child to build up a collection of their own favourites.
- 3 **Read yourself:** make sure your child sees you reading for pleasure and for different purposes.

Tips for different age groups

Birth and pre-school

Babies and young children learn through play and by copying adults, so you can start to follow the 'Top three tips' straight away.

- It is never too early to start sharing books. Babies will love listening to your voice as you read aloud.
- Babies can play with books – look for board books, touchy-feely books, books for the bath and many more...
- Toddlers love to hear familiar stories and rhymes over and over again. Look out for a good book of nursery rhymes and stories that have a strong rhyme or rhythm.
- As they get older, children will start to take interest in the text as well as the pictures. Encourage them to join in with words they know and look out for print all around you – road and shop signs, print on packets, etc. The list is endless.
- Join your local library – there will be a special section of books for the youngest children and many libraries run story sessions during the day.

5-7 year-olds

Now your children are at school, they will be learning how to read. You can support this at home, but don't forget to carry on with the 'Top three tips'. Reading a little each day is better than a longer session only occasionally.

- Take an interest in the books your children bring home from school. Celebrate their achievements as they try reading to you.
- Play games like 'I Spy' to help your children to hear and identify the initial letter sound (or phoneme) in a word.
- Carry on reading aloud. Your child will be able to understand and enjoy longer stories now, but will not be ready to read the books all the way through by themselves. Children of this age often enjoy series of books about the same character.
- Keep visiting the library. At this stage, children need a constant supply of new books so they can clock up those 'reading miles' and get more confident.
- You may wish to return to a favourite, easier book from time to time, to allow children to really enjoy and relax with their reading.

8-11 year-olds

Now your children are moving towards independence as readers. They may be trying to read much longer and more challenging texts or they may have lost some of the enthusiasm they used to have.

- Continue to take an interest in what they are reading. You could offer to take it in turns to read a page each, or read one character in the story. Celebrate their success as they complete longer texts.
- Get your children interested in activities you can do together that involve reading. You could follow instructions for building a model or try out a new recipe together.
- Don't panic if your children don't want to read – many children 'plateau' at this age. Offer a wide range of reading material – information books, comics and magazines. Keep visiting the library and borrow story CDs as well as books.
- Carry on reading aloud. You can introduce your children to some great adventure and fantasy stories and have fun exploring them together. Children will often reread a book that they have first heard read aloud.
- You may wish to return to a favourite, easier book from time to time, to allow children to really enjoy and relax with their reading.

Many thanks for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Head teacher

