Reading at home – how to do it and why it should be done.

At Greyfriars Academy we know that reading is of vital importance – not just as a skill to acquire knowledge but as an activity to be enjoyed. We encourage our children to read every day at home – either by sharing a book with an adult, an adult reading a book to their child, or the child reading to an adult.

The link below has great tips on how to foster a love of reading. It is fun and informative. <https://www.beanstalkcharity.org.uk/Listing/Category/grow-a-love-of-reading?gclid=EAIaIQobChMImIncgI_r9wIVmKztCh2VRQ7TEAAYASAAEgJedvD_BwE>

**Reading to our children** is an important activity, from before they start school to our older children.

‘There can be few things as powerful as regularly reading to a young child. It has astonishing benefits for children: comfort and reassurance, confidence and security, relaxation, happiness and fun. Giving a child time and full attention when reading them a story tells them they matter. It builds self-esteem, vocabulary, feeds imagination and even improves their sleeping patterns.’

For the full article that this quote is taken from click on the link below.

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/blog/reading-children-so-powerful-so-simple-and-yet-so-misunderstood/#:~:text=It%20has%20astonishing%20benefits%20for,even%20improves%20their%20sleeping%20patterns>.

It is also of great importance to **listen to our children read**, understand their preferences and be able to talk to them about the books they are reading. Reading is the best way to widen your child’s vocabulary.

**The Oxford Language (2018) report ‘Why Closing the Word Gap Matters’ found that the word gap significantly impacts achievement. Teachers reported that pupils with low levels of vocabulary often:**

* **Had difficulty working independently.**
* **Had difficulty following what is going on in class.**
* **Achieved worse results in national assessments.**
* **Made slower than expected progress in English.**
* **Made slower than expected progress in other subjects.**

**Even more significantly, Charlton and Asmussen (2017) found that children with language difficulties at age 5 were:**

* **Four times more likely to have reading difficulties in adulthood.**
* **Three times as likely to suffer from mental health problems.**
* **Twice as likely to be unemployed in adulthood.**

<https://www.imagineforest.com/blog/10-reasons-reading-important-kids/> This link gives you 10 reasons why reading is important. It also gives you the option of signing up to receive useful writing tips and prompts to engage children at home. (It is completely free!)

I hope that this has made you realise that even if time is short, and life is hectic at home, how important it is to read to, and listen to our children read.

If your child says they don’t like reading, it is just that they haven’t found the right book yet! Your local library can be really helpful in suggesting books that may engage your child. Your library is a fantastic service, please use it. It is one of the few things that are still absolutely free!

‘Reading gives us somewhere to go when we have to stay where we are.’