

## How to help your child at home

Helping your child at home can have a huge impact on your child's ability to understand, retain and develop their learning at school. The most important way you can help your child is to show an interest in what they do at school. You can do this as you meet them from school, as you walk, or travel home by car, in the supermarket as you shop, at meal times, bath times, and bedtimes – any time! You can show your child you are interested in what they are saying when they are speaking by giving nods, smiles, sounds, supportive words and gestures. Switch off the TV, radio and mobile phones and really listen to your child and their wonderful stories.

It is important that children attend school regularly, attend school on time, eat a balanced diet, eat breakfast before school and get plenty of sleep. It is important to teach children skills such as how to get dressed independently, how to tie their laces and how to button/zip up their coats. Independent toileting is also important. Teach your child good hygiene, help them wipe their bottom, flush the toilet and wash their hands.

Try to give your child encouragement and show appreciation of your child's achievements, whether great or small. Read a book to your child. Books are a rich source of new words for your child. Children need to have a wide vocabulary to understand the meaning of books, so read aloud and share books as often as you can.

### Phonics

Children are taught to read at CVPS through the teaching of high quality phonics. Our chosen programme is 'Little Wandle'. Phonics is taught from reception through to the end of year 2. Phonics is an important daily lesson. All teachers and support staff at CVPS have completed Little Wandle training to make sure our reading journey is consistent throughout school.

Through the teaching of systematic phonics, our aim is for children to become fluent readers by the end of Key Stage One. This way, children can focus on developing their fluency and comprehension as they move through the school.

Here is the Little Wandle parent support website:

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

### Reading at CVPS

At CVPS, we promote our love and passion for reading across school. Each classroom has a dedicated reading area where children can enjoy a range of appropriate books and genres. We have recently updated our library within school, which is accessed by all classes on a weekly basis. This gives opportunities for children to learn how to use a library and search for different genres and books. In reception and KS1 children also read three times a week in a small focus group. This enables pupils to develop and strengthen their decoding and comprehension skills in order for them to become fluent readers by the end of Key Stage One.

### Reading at home

Here are some more tips to help you enjoy storytime together:

- Ask your child to choose what they'd like to read. They'll feel more interested in the story if they've picked it out themselves. (And don't worry if they keep returning to the same story, either!)
- If you can, turn off the TV, radio and computer. It's easier for both of you to enjoy the story without any other distractions.
- Sit close together. You could encourage your child to hold the book themselves and turn the pages, too.
- Take a look at the pictures. You don't just have to read the words on the page. Maybe there's something funny in the pictures that you can giggle about together, or perhaps your child enjoys guessing what will happen next.
- Ask questions and talk about the book. Picture books can be a great way to talk through your child's fears and worries, or to help them deal with their emotions.
- Give them space to talk, and ask how they feel about the situations in the story.
- Have fun! There's no right or wrong way to share a story – as long as you and your child are having fun. Don't be afraid to act out situations or use funny voices... your little ones will love it!

## **Maths**

At CVPS we encourage our children to develop their mathematical knowledge in different ways. Maths is taught daily in every year group to ensure the children are given the opportunity to consistently develop their abilities. Children in key stage 1 take part in mastering number lessons which reinforce the fundamentals of mathematics. Key stage 2 complete daily arithmetic lessons to continue building on their knowledge of the 4 calculations.

Children have endless opportunities to develop their mathematical knowledge throughout their lives. This doesn't just include their maths lessons at school. They are able to apply their maths knowledge to lots of different contexts in everyday life.

Here are a few ways you can help your child develop their maths knowledge at home:

- Helping them to read the time on an analogue clock. Though this is a skill that is learnt in the school's curriculum, it can be incredibly useful if they already have a strong foundation and prior knowledge.
- Taking them to the shop and adding up prices. This will help to build their confidence in mental calculations. They will also be able to compare different amounts and begin to build an understanding of money.
- Showing them coins and notes. Children can often find it difficult to understand why some coins/notes are worth more than others. A conversation about this at home may support their understanding.
- Sharing out food equally e.g. cutting a cake. This will help them to develop their understanding of fractions and how to share equally.
- Identifying both 2D and 3D shapes in everyday items e.g. a football is a sphere or a picture is a rectangle.
- There are many more ways to develop a child's mathematical knowledge in everyday life. If you are ever struggling for more ideas, ask an adult at school or simply search the internet.

## **Links to useful websites**

<https://trockstars.com/>

<https://mathsbot.com/>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary>

<https://ictgames.com/>

<https://uk.splashlearn.com/>

<https://mathsframe.co.uk/>