

Q. How can parents help?

A. Promoting reading at home is the most important way that parents can help their child. Make sure your child has regular reading practice and check they understand what they read.

Here are some more tips for helping children learn to read:

- Set aside a few minutes every day for shared reading.
- When reading to your child, make the experience interactive - ask questions about the story, the pictures and what they think of the characters.
- When learning to read, help children to hear and identify sounds in words.
- Encourage children to blend sounds to form words.
- Play games such as "I spy.." or rhyming games to build sound awareness.
- As their reading skills grow, gradually let them turn the tables until they're reading to the adult.
- Use dictionaries together for difficult words - a picture dictionary can make exploring language more interesting.
- Encourage children to read signs, menus or grocery lists with you.
- Enrol children at the local library or Idea Store so they can try new books regularly
- Keep an eye out for the themes that catch children's imagination at school - and help follow it up with more reading.
- When they come across an unusual or funny-sounding word, help your child find out what it means and write it on the fridge door with magnetic letters

As children get older, encourage them to pick up other books around the house to boost familiarity with 'grown-up' language. Suggest a reading list, and encourage them to write down their thoughts on the books they have read. Just as importantly, make sure children see adults reading both for purpose and pleasure. Make sure children see you reading a novel or magazine for pleasure, take a shopping list when shopping! These all help children to understand the purpose behind reading.



Phonics and Reading at Osmani Primary School



Q. What is reading?

A. At its simplest, reading can be defined as the process of decoding symbols (letters and numbers) to take meanings from a text.

However, at Osmani we recognise that there are a number of factors that are part of developing reading:

- Decoding – ability to read words
- Understanding- ability to understand what those words mean
- Experience- ability to use previous experiences to make sense of the written word
- Fluency- ability to use understanding of language to make sense of sentences
- Purpose- ability to understand that reading can be used for a variety of purposes: to obtain information, to develop empathy, to understand learning tasks, to increase knowledge and to help us make sense of the world around us.
- Stamina- ability to read for increasing periods of time
- Enjoyment- understanding how enjoyable it can be to read different types of texts.

Q. How do we develop reading?

A. From the moment your child enters Osmani school they will be given every opportunity to develop their reading skills. There are a number of things we do that all contribute to developing your child as a reader:

- The consistent, systematic teaching of synthetic phonics (sounds) to ensure your child can decode.(Read, Write Inc)
- A language rich environment. Talk is an integral part of our curriculum helping children to develop a rich and varied vocabulary which they can bring to different texts.
- Planning opportunities for school visits, workshops, and special projects helps children to develop a wealth of experiences that they can draw on in their reading.

- Regular Guided Reading Sessions and sentence level work as part of the daily literacy lesson helps your child to develop comprehension and fluency.
- Reading is planned and purposeful and covers a wide range of text types. The school has a well stocked library where children can borrow books. Each classroom has a book corner with a number of different text types for your child to read.
- Children are given opportunities to read across the curriculum and every child is expected to read at home as part of their homework.
- All classes read together during a story time session every day. Teachers use their knowledge of children's literature to select books that engage children and make them want to read more.
- The school matches texts to different interests. We recognise that boys and girls often like different types of texts and ensure there is sufficient provision for all the children.