



**SHELFORD**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL  
*Achieving great things*



Respect



Achievement



Kindness



Inclusion

## Home Reading / Literacy Program

All students at Shelford Primary School are expected to practice their reading every night. Evidence of this is to be recorded in their diary and brought to school each day.

It is important that reading routines at home become established early in your child's education as they are essential for your child's development as a reader.

*One of the most important things you can do for your child is to set up a routine where they can read for at least 20 minutes every day.*

### Seniors

Typically, students in the senior class are independent readers. They are encouraged to select a book from home, MARC Van or school that fosters their engagement in the reading process and provides them with sufficient challenge. Your child's ability and understanding will be greatly enhanced if you could ask some thoughtful questions about what they have just read. This could include examining;

- A characters thoughts and feelings
- Interesting facts they have discovered
- The role a character plays in the story
- Choices made by the author such as setting, language & text type
- Humorous inferences
- Misunderstood phrases and words
- Identifying elements of text such as nouns, verbs adjectives, punctuation etc

### Juniors

Students in the junior class are typically less independent readers - especially those in the lower years. Levelled readers will be sent home at the beginning of every week with the expectation that they read a levelled text every night. This is so that each child is practicing their reading skills at the appropriate level without having to worry if the text will be too hard/easy for them to decode or comprehend. We also encourage students to read other texts they are passionate about and engaged in.

If reading independent texts, students are encouraged to select 'good fit books'. These are books that interest the students and are at a level that can be comprehended.

Just as with the seniors, it is also beneficial to ask follow up questions or to ask them to do a detailed retell of the book your child just read to help enhance their understanding and comprehension (see below)

Prep students will be sent home with a special 'Prep bag' filled with books and activities. To protect our books, we ask that you please use this bag for our home reading program. We ask that families of students in years 1 – 3 send along a suitable, named bag from home such as a reusable supermarket bag.

## ***Home Reading with Emergent Readers***

***Remember that this activity is to help me practice my reading skills  
NOT to challenge me.***

- **I need to practice;**
  - Reading fluently
  - Looking at sounds in words (beginning and ending)
  - Self correcting when I make an error
  - Using punctuation correctly (full stops and commas)
- **Talking about the title and what the story might be about is very helpful.**
- **Let me PAUSE. Give me time to work out unknown words or time to notice my errors. You can help me by asking;**
  - Did that make sense
  - Did that sound right
  - Does that look right
  - Go back to the start of the sentence and try again
- **If this doesn't help ask;**
  - What would make sense
  - What would sound right
  - What would look right
  - As a last resort you may help me to sound out the word
- **Discuss the book and what it was about when finished.**

***Remember to give your child lots of praise when they self correct or read well***

## Spelling

Students in the senior class are tested on a new set of words every Monday. Students will write any misspelt words in their diary to practice at home throughout the week.

In the Junior classroom we will be following the Sound Waves spelling program, which explicitly teaches phoneme-grapheme (sound/letter) relationship, spelling patterns and vocabulary concepts. This is paired with targeted practice in class that allows students to apply their knowledge and skills that mirror what has been taught in lessons.

Our younger students may also be sent home with games and activities to build and consolidate their understanding of letters and sounds. If it is felt your child needs extra practice and support at home, this will be communicated by the classroom teacher.



### Finding Right Fit Books

A "right fit" book is a book that your child can enjoy reading on their own. Reading just right books helps your child develop as a reader. To find a book that is just the right fit for your child, try using the five finger test.

Here's how it works: Turn to a page in the middle of the book. As your child reads, hold up a finger for every word he/she doesn't know. Use the following guidelines:

1 Easy book for your child  
2 Good choice for your child  
3 Might need some help, but still a good choice  
4 May be too difficult to read and understand. You may need to help  
5 Probably too difficult for your child

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