



Reading at Home Guidance 2026

At Bathampton, we believe passionately that reading is not only an essential life skill, but also a gateway to a brighter future. Research from the National Literacy Trust (2025) highlights the many benefits of reading for pleasure, including improved reading skills, a greater aptitude for learning, enhanced wellbeing and increased empathy. Together, these qualities help children thrive both in school and throughout their lives.

We are committed to inspiring every child to develop a lifelong love of reading and positive reading habits. To achieve this, a strong partnership between school and home is essential. We hope the information in this guide gives you a clear understanding of you can best support your child on their reading journey.

Reading Books

In EYFS and KS1 we provide two books each week:

- a **reading practice book** matched to the child's phonic stage that they can read independently
- a **sharing book** that they can talk about and enjoy with their parent/carer.

Reading Practice Book

Your child will also bring home a **reading practice book**. This book is carefully matched to the sounds and words they have been learning in school, so they can read it with confidence and build their fluency.

As your child reads, please listen with interest, encourage them and celebrate their success. Praise and reassurance can make a huge difference to their confidence as a reader.

You may notice that your child brings home the same book more than once. Re-reading familiar books helps children become more fluent and confident readers.

Once your child has finished reading, you might like to chat about the story, characters or information in the book. Keep the experience relaxed and positive, focusing on enjoyment rather than testing their understanding.

Sharing Books

At Bathampton, we want every child to develop a love of reading. To support this, your child will bring home a **sharing book** chosen from our school library.

These books are selected for enjoyment and are intended to be **read together**. Your child may not be able to read the book independently, and that's absolutely fine. The aim is for you to share the story, talk about the pictures, discuss ideas and enjoy reading together.



Children are encouraged to choose books that interest them, including stories, poetry and non-fiction texts. Our wonderful library offers a wide range of books, and the children are taught how to explore the library and select books for themselves.

Most importantly, enjoy this special time reading together and helping your child develop a lifelong love of books.

Reading Records

Your child will read with a teacher or teaching assistant at least once each week. When a new reading book is sent home, this will be recorded in their Reading Record. Staff will also add a celebration to highlight something your child has done well and a next step to support their reading development.

We encourage you to read with your child 3-5 times each week. Regular reading helps to build confidence, fluency, expression and understanding.

Please use the Reading Record to let us know when you have read together. This can be a short comment or simply the number of times you have read during the week.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's reading, please speak to their class teacher, who will be happy to help.

Morning Book Club

Each week parents and carers are invited into their child's classroom to share a book with them. This takes place between 8:40-9:00 and we change the day each term to help as many parents and carers as possible to attend. This is an informal opportunity to enjoy a book with your child- it may be a book linked to our current topic or a book they are reading and want to share.