



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 KS2 we provide two books:

- a **reading practice book** based on your child's current reading level
- a **sharing book** that they can talk about and enjoy with their parent/carer.

Reading Practice Book

Pupils move from Phase 5 Little Wandle readers on to Big Cat Collins reading book bands- Turquoise first. This is when they have **secure** phonic knowledge phases **2-5** and are reading fluently approx 60 words per minute. Once children are reading these books, they can have reading assessment (Big Cat Collins) to move on to the next colour. If your child is on a Little Wandle or Big Cat Collins reading level they will bring a reading practice book home. Once they have completed the levels they will become a free reader however it is really important they still read with an adult.

Teachers will check reading levels regularly to see if a child needs to move up to a new level but please do flag with us if you have noticed anything when reading with them at home. 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.

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 their teacher during reading lessons over the term and will write in their reading record, however reading records will be checked weekly so please do flag any concerns or raise any questions in there or directly with your child's teacher. When writing in reading records, staff will 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. This is still important when they become a free reader and finding a book you can enjoy together helps develop a life long habit of reading.

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.