

Early Reading at Valewood

A guide for families

At Valewood our main reading scheme is Oxford Reading Tree, although we do have supplementary books that the children also enjoy reading. This year we have revamped our home reading books to make it clear for families which books can be read independently by the children and which might need a little bit of additional help.

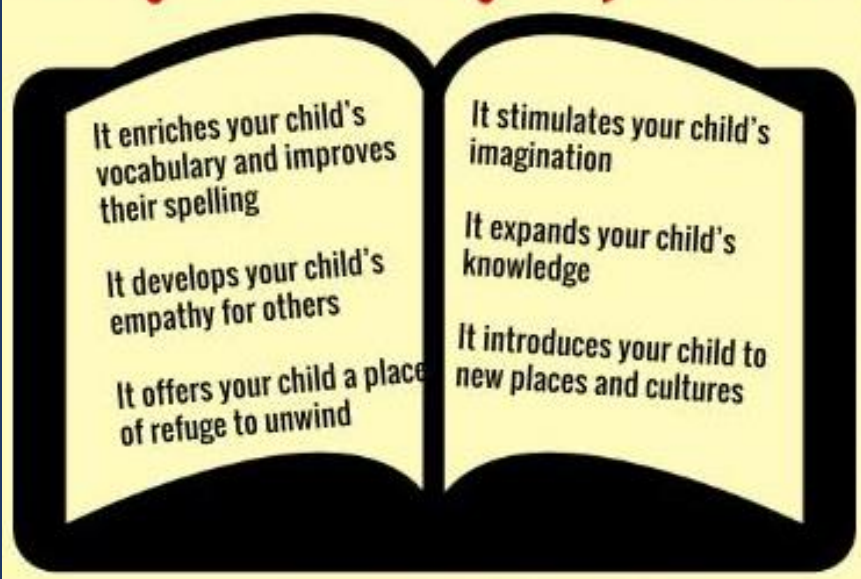
If the book your child is reading has a green sticker on the back cover then it is phonetically decodable for the phonics your child has covered or is covering in class.



If the book has a red sticker then there may be words that are not decodable. If this is the case do not encourage your child to use their phonics but instead tell them the word. Red stickered books are great for discussion and comprehension, green stickered books are good for practising phonics and fluency.



Why is reading important?



Another wonderful resource that every child can access is the [oxfordreadingbuddy.com/uk](https://www.oxfordreadingbuddy.com/uk) website. Here you can find a wide range of Oxford Reading Tree texts all linked the phonics and levels/bands that your child will bring home. If you ever have any questions about your child's home reading please see their class teacher.

Top Tips for Reading at Home:

- ★ Make reading part of your family's daily routine e.g. bedtime
- ★ Reading should be a relaxed, enjoyable time spent together
- ★ Encourage your child to read a variety of materials (comics, magazines, menus, signage, shopping lists etc.)
- ★ Join your local library and visit it regularly to borrow books
- ★ Select books at the correct level for your child's reading ability - too hard may prove frustrating and too easy dull
- ★ Look out for book events where children take part in fun activities with their favourite authors (see useful links)
- ★ Let your children see you reading - monkey see, monkey do!
- ★ Encourage your child to talk to you about the book they are reading - ask them questions e.g. what do you think will happen next?
- ★ Notice which authors and styles of books appeal to your child and surprise them by leaving another book in that series or by the same author under their pillow!
- ★ Check weekend newspapers and websites for book reviews



“Children are made
readers in the laps
of their parents.”



“You're never
too old, too wacky, too wild,
to pick up a book and
read to a child.”
- Dr. Seuss

