

Helping Your Child to Prepare for the Reading Test

What does the Reading Test look like?

- The Reading Test consists of a single test paper with three unrelated reading texts.
- Children are given 60 minutes in total, which includes reading the texts and answering the questions.
- A total of 50 marks are available.
- Questions are designed to assess the comprehension
- Some questions are multiple choice or selected response, others require short answers and some require an extended response or explanation and understanding of a child's reading.

There will be a selection of question types, including:

- **Ranking/ordering**, e.g. 'Number the events below to show the order in which they happen in the story'
- **Labelling**, e.g. 'Label the text to show the title of the story'
- **Find and copy**, e.g. 'Find and copy one word that suggests what the weather is like in the story'
- **Short constructed response**, e.g. 'What does the bear eat?'
- **Open-ended response**, e.g. 'Look at the sentence that begins *Once upon a time*. How does the writer increase the tension throughout this paragraph? Explain fully, referring to the text in your answer.'

How Can You Help Them?

Listening to your child read can take many forms. First and foremost, focus developing an enjoyment and love of reading.

- Enjoy stories together - reading stories to your child at KS2 is equally as important as listening to your child read.
- Read a little at a time but often, rather than rarely but for long periods of time!
- Talk about the story before, during and afterwards - discuss the plot, the characters, their feelings and actions, how it makes you feel, predict what will happen and encourage your child to have their own opinions.
- Look up definitions of words together - you could use a dictionary, the internet or an app on a phone or tablet.
- All reading is valuable - it doesn't have to be just stories. Reading can involve anything from fiction and non-fiction, poetry, newspapers, magazines, football programmes, TV guides.
- Visit the local library - it's free!