



Helping your child at home

March 2025



Ready-made resources
on our website

Our website: <https://oaklandsjunior-school.org.uk/helping-your-child-at-home-2/>



HOME

THE SCHOOL ▼

FOR OUR PARENTS ▼

FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS ▼

NEWS ▼

CONTACT US

A photograph of a garden pond. In the foreground, there are several lily pads floating on the water. To the right, a cluster of tall green irises with bright yellow flowers stands prominently. The background shows a wooden fence and more greenery. The text "Helping your child at home" is overlaid in white on the center of the image.

Helping your child at home

Top tips for homework booklet & other useful documents:

1. Make Time
Make time, even 5 minutes could help!
Your child will benefit from you getting involved in their homework time.
If you have a busy schedule, think about how you can fit in homework time.
You can encourage learning with your child about together in the car, during playtime and even at mealtime.
Use a good clock to set a timer for homework and stick to it - this gives a child a sense of control and helps them to get started.
Remember to reward the learning that you can both talk and learn about!

2. Experience Counts
Try and link the real world experiences to your child's school work e.g. visits to the park, museum or city hall.
Use real world experiences to help your child understand what they are learning.
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Use real world experiences to help your child understand what they are learning.

3. Take an Interest
Let them know you want to be involved!
Show an interest in your child's school work.
Show an interest in your child's school work.
Show an interest in your child's school work.

4. Lend a Hand
Let them know you want to be involved!
Show an interest in your child's school work.
Show an interest in your child's school work.
Show an interest in your child's school work.

5. Watch the Telly
Use educational TV to help your child learn.
Use educational TV to help your child learn.
Use educational TV to help your child learn.

6. Remove Distractions
Help your child to see homework as a task.
Help your child to see homework as a task.
Help your child to see homework as a task.

7. Have a Look
Check in on your child's progress.
Check in on your child's progress.
Check in on your child's progress.

8. Give Praise
Let them know they're doing a great job!
Let them know they're doing a great job!
Let them know they're doing a great job!

9. Go to School!
Let them know that you are keen to help your child with their study and that you are interested in their learning experience.
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10. Reward Progress
Set goals and provide rewards for achievements.
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Set goals and provide rewards for achievements.

Oaklands Junior School

Top Tips for Homework

Are related suggestions to support your child in reading, writing & maths:
<https://parents.education.govt.nz/primary-school/learning-and-development-at-home/ideas-to-help-with-reading-writing-and-maths/>

Maths

Alongside any maths work sent home, you can support your child by helping them learn key number facts:

- Adding and subtracting numbers up to 20 e.g. 7+8, 13-9
- Learning times tables and related division facts e.g. 3x7=21; 21÷3=7
- Doubling and halving numbers
- Understanding the place value of digits - e.g. hundreds, tens and ones

Useful resources include a deck of cards or 10-sided dice. They can be used in a range of ways e.g.

Dice:

- Roll two dice and add or multiply the two numbers together. You could also find the difference between the two dice.
- Roll one die and double it

Cards:

- Turn over two cards and complete the multiplication calculation. Jack = 11, Queen = 12 and a King means squared. So, if a 9 and a King were turned over, the answer would be 9² = 81.
- You could also add the two cards or find the difference.

For further ideas on games and activities to play with your child, go to the school website:

Top Tips for Parents

- Be positive about maths. Try not to say things like "I can't do maths" or "I hated maths at school" - your child may start to think like that themselves.
- Point out the maths in everyday life. Include your child in activities involving numbers and measuring, such as shopping, cooking and travelling.
- Praise your child for effort rather than for being "clever". This shows them that by working hard they can always improve.

English

Reading is the foundation to writing and the more than you can encourage your child to read, the more their writing will improve.

As part of their homework, children are expected to read at least five times a week. To try to make this a more positive and productive time, see the '10 tips on hearing your child read' section in our 'Helping your child with English' document.

For all primary school children, even if they are a confident reader, we would recommend the following to help them continue to develop their reading skills:

- Children read aloud to an adult at least once a week.
- An adult reads a more challenging book to your child at least once a week.
- Spending time discussing what you are reading (before, during and after each 'session') - see the 'Reading Comprehension Questions' section of our 'Helping your child with English' document.

Other ways of supporting your child in reading and writing at home are:

- Spending time with them editing their homework.
- Playing word games and doing activities like hangman, wordsearches & crosswords.
- Use spelling apps such as 'Squeebles', 'Mr Thorne's spellbook', 'Spelling Shed' or 'Spelling hangman'.
- Encourage them to keep a diary, write a blog, send emails and / or letters to family and friends.
- Spending time talking! Listening to and taking part in discussions will widen your child's vocabulary and improve their sentence structure.

The more time you are able to invest in your child's reading and writing, the more benefit they and you will see. However, striving to get a balance can be difficult, and regular shorter sessions is better for you and your child!

Below are links to support you and your child

Homework advice booklet

Times Tables activities (can also be adapted for addition and subtraction)

Helping your child with English

Grammar glossary

National Curriculum Grammar Objectives Years 1-6

Ideas to help with reading, writing and maths (NZ Government website)

Calculation guidance

Hit the button

Learn your times tables

Timestables.co.uk

Tablestest.com





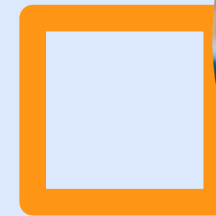
Helping your child
with maths

Would you say this to your child?

“I’m rubbish at reading.”

“I’m not very good at writing so that’s probably why you find it hard!”

“Don’t worry. I used to hate reading and writing at school too.”

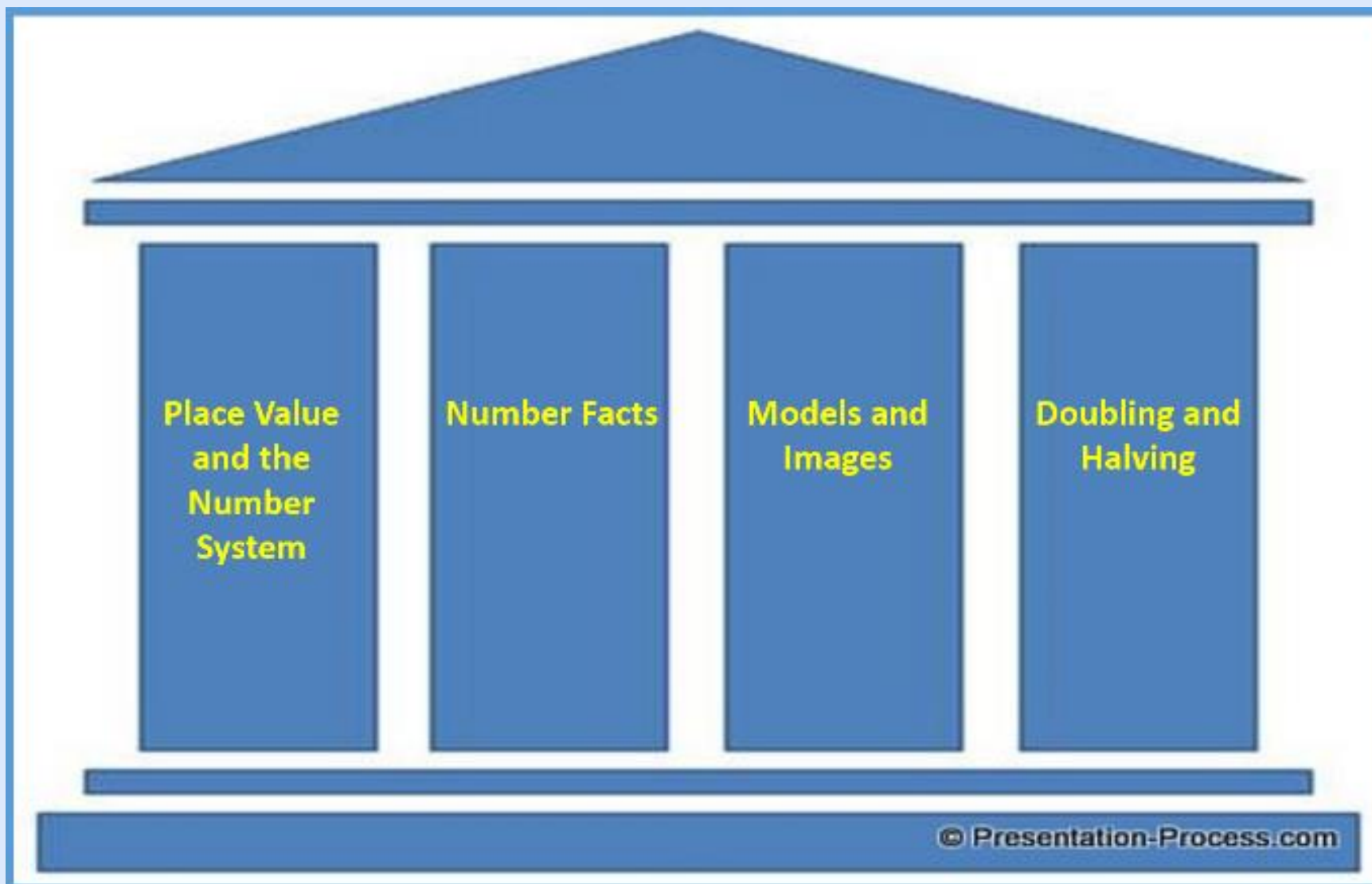


Agenda



Background to maths at OJS
Mr Lee's Top tips
Useful links

Pillars of maths at OJS



The CPA approach

The CPA Approach



CONCRETE -
using physical objects
to solve maths problems.



PICTORIAL -
using drawings
to solve maths problems.



ABSTRACT -
solving maths problems
using only numbers.

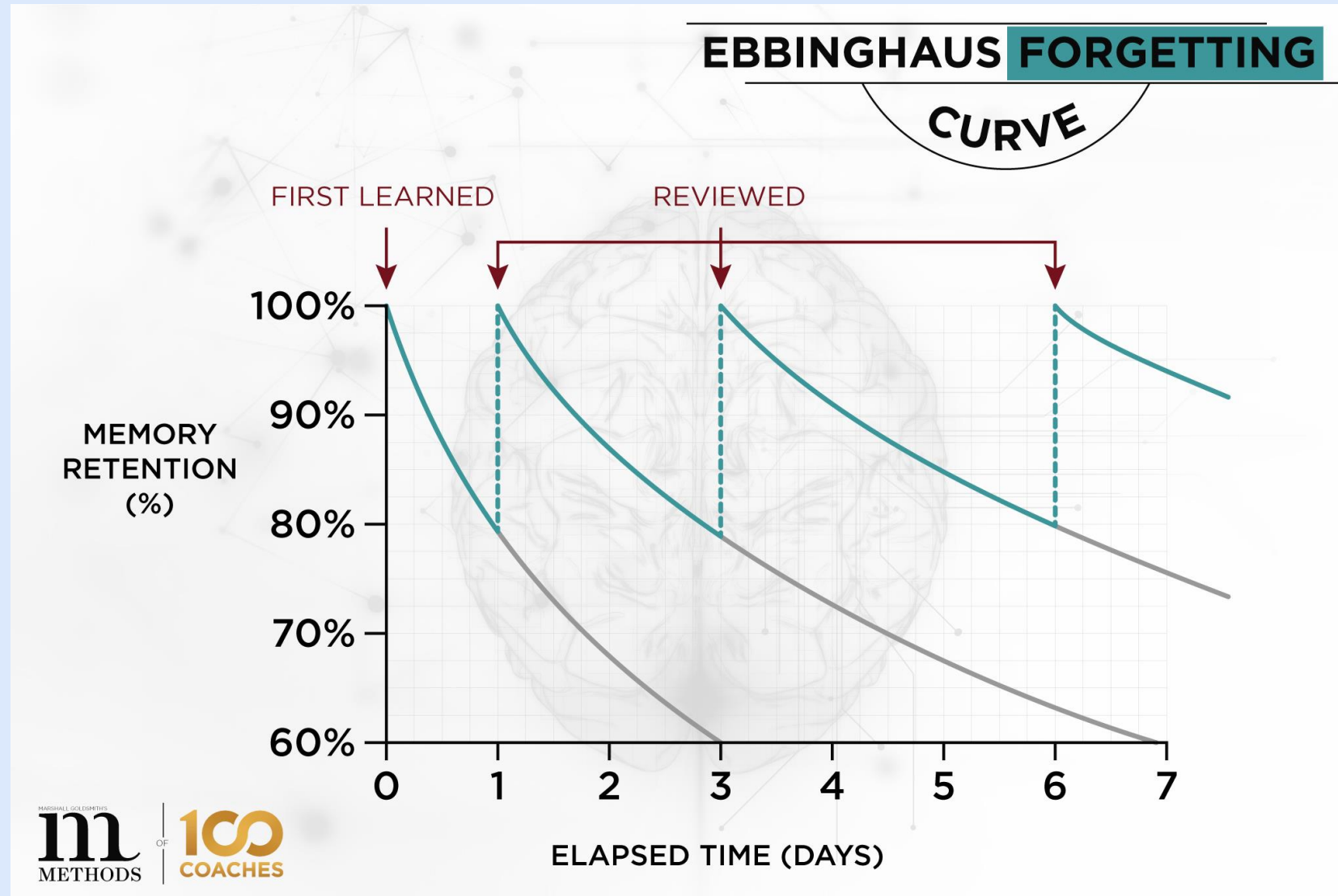


Every year counts!



KS2 Maths SATs papers analysis						
Percentage of questions from each year group curriculum across Arithmetic and Reasoning						
Year	2017	2018	2019	2022	2023	2024
3	7%	9%	10%	8%	12%	11%
4	26%	18%	21%	23%	20%	21%
5	25%	26%	21%	32%	32%	19%
6	41%	47%	47%	37%	36%	48%

Retrieval is key!



Now time for a test!

- Please look at the sheet of paper under your chair.
- Are you ready?
- How are you feeling?

Maths anxiety



- Maths anxiety is an emotional response characterized by feelings of tension, apprehension, or fear that interfere with maths performance.
- Academic research emphasizes that tackling maths anxiety requires a multi-faceted approach involving teachers, parents, and the students themselves in order to change attitudes and break the cycle of fear and failure.





Mr Lee's top tips



- Praise effort not achievement
- Little and often: repetition, repetition, repetition!
- Initially focus on number facts: number bonds, times tables
- Use concrete and pictorial resources
- Use a mixture of on and off-screen resources
- Maths through play: cards, dice, board games, songs
- Real life / outdoor maths: cooking, telling the time, shopping, measuring, timetables, reading maps



Useful resources / links

- [Maths at home guide](#) – including extra links
- Brush up your maths confidence: [National Numeracy Challenge](#).
- Activities on [NNC website](#).
- Links on next pages for practising maths and times tables
- Our website and us!

Free resources



1. [The Ultimate Times Table Practice Sheet | Teaching Resources \(tes.com\)](#) - Free times tables practice sheets generator
2. Hit the button – <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>
3. <https://www.timestables.co.uk/> - great free site with teaching, practice and games
4. <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/maths/primary-multiplication-division/help-with-times-tables/>
5. Songs - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z97rdnb#zw6k7v4>
6. Games - <https://thirdspacelearning.com/blog/times-tables-games/>
7. Useful blog with different ideas - <https://thirdspacelearning.com/blog/how-to-help-your-child-learn-times-tables-at-home/>

Paid for resources



Subscription / cost – focusses only on learning times tables

1. <https://www.funkeymaths.com/> - Tables cards £10. Play games with physical cards, used in school.
2. Squeebles tables: <https://keystagefun.co.uk/ttconnect/pricing/> - £2/month £20 a year (up to 4 children)
3. Times tables rockstars - <https://trockstars.com/families> - £9 a year (up to 3 children)
4. Math loops - 99p app from app stores

Subscription / cost – focusses on improving both general maths and times tables

1. <https://komodomath.com/plans> - £9.99/month. Winner of Best Home & Family Learning Resource in the BET Awards
2. <https://doodlelearning.com/tables-app> - £13/month or £120 a year
3. <https://www.mathletics.com/uk/> - £12 a month or £60 a year



Helping your child
with English

The best way
to support
your child
with their
English...



Benefits of reading with your child



Bond- physical closeness of reading and over shared interests.



Improves reading fluency and comprehension.



Develops vocabulary- 90% of your vocabulary comes from reading books.



Helps with spelling and grammatical understanding.



Lets their imagination run wild and inspires them to write.



They gain a deeper understanding of the world and develop empathy.



Helps with academic success across the board.

Tips for supporting your child with reading:

- Set up a regular reading routine.
- Have a comfortable space where reading can take place.
- Visit the local library.
- Access digital reading resources and audio-books.
- Choose new books together.
- Ensure that books are appropriately challenging and encourage a variety of genre.
- Borrow books from friends and family members.
- <https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/category/reading-lists-for-ks2-school-pupils/>

5 HABITS FOR A SUCCESSFUL HOME LITERACY ENVIRONMENT

CONSISTENCY

Read to your child everyday!
It doesn't have to be a lot. It just needs to be consistent!

01



INDEPENDENCE

Encourage your child to start reading independently. The more familiar they are with the text, the more likely they will pick up a book!

02



MIRRORING

Be a good example and make sure you read, too!
They will mirror your behavior!

03



AVAILABILITY

Provide your child with books that are appropriate for their reading level and make the books accessible!

04



PREFERENCES

Don't dwell on any books that they don't particularly like - pay attention to their preferences!

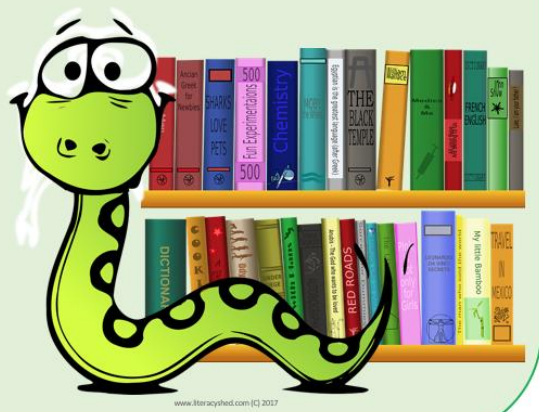
05



www.littlefunclub.com

Reading Vipers

- V**ocabulary
- I**nfer
- P**redict
- E**xplain
- R**etrieve
- S**equence or Summarise



www.literacyshed.com (c) 2017

Vocabulary
Find out and explain the meaning of words in context.

- What do the words...and...suggest about the character, setting and mood?
- Which words tell us that...?
- Which key word tells you about the character/ setting/ mood?
- Find a word in the text which means...
- Find and highlight the word that is closest in meaning to...
- Find a word or phrase which shows/ suggests that...



Infer
Make and justify inferences using evidence from the text.

- Find and copy a group of words which show that...
- How do these words make the reader feel? How does this paragraph suggest this?
- How do the descriptions of...show that they are...?
- How can you tell that...?
- What impression of...do you get from these paragraphs?
- What voice might these characters use?
- What was...thinking when...?
- Who is telling the story?

Predict
Predict what will happen based on the details given and implied.

- From the cover what cover what do you think this text is going to be about?
- What is happening now? What has happened before this? What will happen after?
- What does this paragraph suggest will happen next? What makes you think this?
- Do you think the choice of setting will influence how the plot develops?
- Do you think...will happen? Explain your answer using the evidence from the text?

Explain
Explain the literary choices of the author within the text.

- Why is the text arranged on this way? What structure has been used?
- What is the purpose of this text feature?
- The mood of the character changes throughout the text. Find and copy the phrases which show this?
- What affect does...have on the audience?
- How does the author engage the reader here?
- Which words and phrases did...effectively?
- Which section was the most interesting/ exciting part?
- How are these sections linked?

Retrieve
Retrieve and record information and identify key details.

- How would you describe this story/ text? What genre is it? How do you know?
- How did...?
- How often...?
- What happened to...?
- What does...do?
- How is...?
- What can you learn about...from this section?
- Give one example of...
- Whose perspective is this story told from?

Summarise
Summarise the main ideas from more than one paragraph.

- Can you number these events 1-5 in the order that they happened?
- What happened after...?
- What was the first thing that happened in the story?
- Can you summarise in a sentence the opening/ middle/ end of the story?
- In what order do these chapter headings come in the story.



Extract from 'The Wizard of Oz'

By L. Frank Baum

While Dorothy was looking earnestly into the queer, painted face of the Scarecrow, she was surprised to see one of the eyes slowly wink at her. She thought she must have been mistaken, at first, for none of the scarecrows in Kansas ever wink; but presently the figure nodded its head to her in a friendly way. The she climbed down from the fence and walked up to it, while Toto ran around the pole and barked.

“Good day,” said the Scarecrow , in a rather husky voice.

“Did you speak?” asked the girl, in wonder.

Reading Vipers

Vocabulary

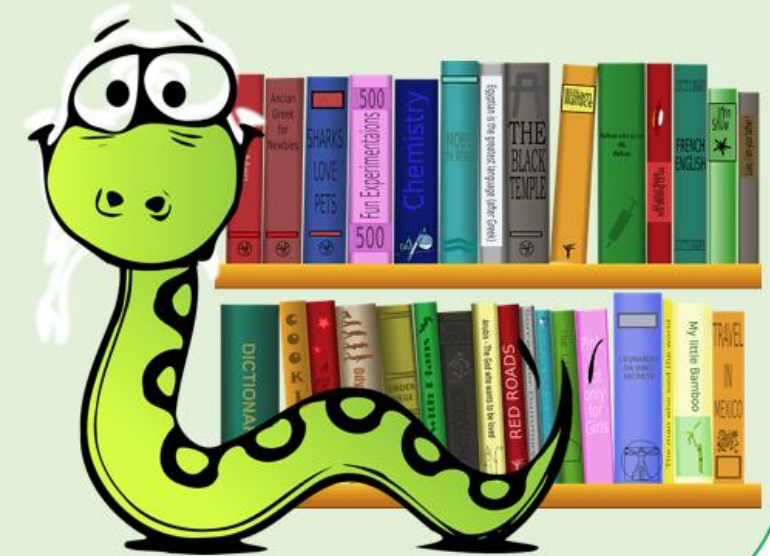
Infer

Predict

Explain

Retrieve

Sequence or Summarise



Examples:

V- What is meant by the word earnestly?

I- How can you tell that Dorothy is a brave character?

P- Do you think the scarecrow would have replied to Dorothy? What might he have said?

E- How does the author make the scarecrow seem like a nice character?

R- Why did Dorothy think she must be mistaken?

S- Put these events in order: the scarecrow spoke, the scarecrow winked, the scarecrow nodded its head.

How to support reluctant readers



Break reading down into a less daunting task. A lengthy book can be very overwhelming!



Start by choosing to read something quick that appeals to your child's interests e.g. an instruction booklet for building Lego or a recipe. It doesn't have to be a story, just something that can be enjoyable and purposeful.



Have a choice of books available so the child feels like they have a say in what they read.



Little and often is great. Start by setting timers for shorter intervals and gradually build up.

How to support your child with writing

- Consider short writing opportunities linked with your child's interests e.g. a 50-word review of a new game or a tutorial for a particular hobby.
- Encourage writing journals/ diary entries after a fun/ eventful day.
- Model writing- to-do lists, note taking, grocery lists.
- Look at half-termly gold paper writing and get the children to explain the purpose, audience and effect on the reader. Ask them how they edited their first draft and what they feel proud of.



Spelling

Keep a record of words that your child got wrong from any spelling tests taken home (High frequency words, lower and upper key stage word lists and half-termly tests).

Choose a method that helps them e.g. say it wrong to spell it right and keep practising!

Model using a dictionary to check spellings.

Sounds Write approach to spelling.



How to use Sounds-Write techniques to help children spell polysyllabic words

1. How many syllables in _____? Use your jaw to help you!
2. Draw a line for each syllable.
3. What's the root word? Any prefixes / suffixes?
4. What is the first syllable?
5. What sounds can you hear in the first syllable? Write down the spellings for them.
6. Repeat step 3 & 4 for the next syllable.
7. Say the sounds and read the syllable.
8. Read the word.
9. Use a dictionary to check it!

