

These are some ideas to support your child at home to help with their learning of English. If you need further information please discuss with your child's teacher.

Spelling

All Key Stage Three pupils have their own mini dictionary, treasury-tagged to the back of their book. They have to write any misspellings in there after their books and/ or assessments are marked, and write out a sentence using the word with its correct spelling. Pupils also write down in their dictionaries any spellings they looked up, or needed clarifying in lessons.

At the end of each week, we will be asking pupils to take their mini dictionaries home, so that you can test them on the words in there. This will solidify learning taking place in lessons, and should help to aid your child's retention of these words.

Another way in which you can help consolidate your child's daily learning is to ask them if they have learnt any new Key Words that day, and test them on how they are spelt.

Reading

It would be a wonderful way to support your child's learning if you take an interest in current units they are studying. That way, you can understand what it is they are learning, and will enable you to ask your child questions about that topic. For instance, if the unit is 'Private Peaceful', you may encourage your child to research World War I, or watch a documentary together on the subject. This will help them help consolidate your child's knowledge and learning.

Your child will benefit from reading at home- anything you have to hand! Children don't necessarily need to read works of fiction: newspapers, magazines, blogs, factual books etc. all help to encourage reading skills, understanding of punctuation use and expand vocabulary.

General Help and Support

- At home, you could use unusual vocabulary to encourage your child to understand its meaning and comprehend how it could be used.
- Ensure there is always a stock of reading material, and writing paper, pens and highlighters to hand.
- If possible, providing your child with a dictionary, thesaurus and grammar book would be very beneficial. (CGP have lots to choose from, as does Oxford Press. Shops like WH Smiths and Blackwells, and online shops such Amazon and Play sell a variety. Check out reviews to see which would be most beneficial to your child.)
- Try to ensure your children have a workspace. It might be that siblings take it in turns to use an area of the home.
- Take an interest in the work your child creates; even if it is not perfect, find something positive to say.
- When your child has had an assessment returned, ask them what the feedback was, and how they can/ will make improvements next time- and what that will mean in terms of future grades.
- When taking class notes, encourage your child to partition off their books with small post-it notes. This way, they can retrieve given notes quickly and easily.
- Encourage your child to read to you, and discuss what was read.
- Encourage your child to develop their own library of books; this might be a particular series of books, or a particular author they enjoy.
- Talk to your child about what books you enjoy, and why.
- Encourage your child to experience words and reading in different ways, like following a recipe, writing a family member or friend a letter or email, writing shopping lists, and solving crosswords and puzzles together.
- After a special event or family day out, encourage your child to write a diary or blog about their experiences.