

# School Comprehension Priority Parent Information Note

One of Landsdale Primary School's priority areas within English is Reading Comprehension.

While oral speech and language comes naturally to children as it has a specific place in the brain, comprehension requires many parts of the brain to work together, and so is more difficult for children to develop.

Reading comprehension is about understanding and building meaning from what has been read. This involves:

- students reading lots of different types of texts (make believe stories, real life stories, factual information, web sites, looking at pictures, reports, poems etc) and
- using comprehension/thinking strategies that start simple (right there, main idea) and move to more difficult thinking (figuring things out, making a guess, why/how questions) to help understand what has been read.

**In order for children to be able to comprehend what they are reading, they must have the following skills:**

- know sight words quickly and automatically, without sounding them out (fluent decoding skills)
- know lots of different words and what they mean (word knowledge/vocabulary)

## What Can You Do At Home To Improve Your Child's Comprehension

- Read the same narrative story book many times, so they are able to start repeating the words
- Point to and discuss the words they can say, showing what they look like in the book
- Help your child find letters and words on the page in the book
- Ask questions about the story while reading
- Speak directly to your child, having lots of conversation and asking questions that require the child to answer
- Help your child learn the letters in their name, so they can find them in books
- Use flashcards to practice learning letters and words. The idea is to increase how quickly they recognise the letters and words (use a timer)
- For older children, time how many words per minute your child reads, try to improve this number
- Use the five finger rule to select a suitable book for practicing reading
- Parent-child conversations and language/talking interactions before 3 years of age are very important for future comprehension and reading at school. This interaction is about learning and using new words. The more words children know, the quicker their reading will develop
- Try some of the questions in the 'Questions For Home Reading' Booklet while reading with your child to improve comprehension

