

A Guide to Supporting Your Son at Home

English

Merchant Taylors' Junior Boys' School



**MERCHANT
TAYLORS'
SCHOOLS**

For Boys and Girls
aged 4 to 18 years

This guide is designed to give you practical advice on how you can support your son at home.

Speaking and Listening

Ensure that your son has plenty of opportunities to talk at length and to listen to sustained talk from others. Ask him to tell you about an event in detail or explain how something works. Help him to understand how speakers help listeners, by using repetition and different voices for different characters when telling a story. Encourage him to think about how to organise what he wants to say.

Reading



Ensure your son has:

- access to a range of fiction and non-fiction books, magazines and newspapers from home, school and the library
- somewhere quiet to read
- time to read regularly and the opportunity to see you reading, choosing books, going to the library and talking about what you have read.

Read to your son and take turns with him in reading a section each of the text, supporting and prompting his reading in positive ways. Talk to him about the books he has read.

Engage with what he reads by asking him to:

- predict what will happen next in a story
- describe his response when he knows what does happen
- explain why a character behaves as they do
- point to particular parts of a text that he likes
- talk about what a text suggests or implies.

Writing



Ensure that your son has:

- opportunities to write at home
- a dictionary and thesaurus
- reasons for writing such as creating a shopping list, a plan for a party or family celebration, a postcard or a story that they can email to grandparents
- opportunities to see you as a writer.

Read and talk about his writing. Ask him to read his writing aloud to you. Respond to the writing and praise what you liked. Encourage personal writing through the completion of a journal, diary or a blog.

Help your son with planning his writing by asking him to talk through his ideas with you before he writes. Prompt him to include more detail, sequence events more clearly and vary the pace. Talk with him about how he might improve or rephrase sections, for example, by including more descriptive detail or using a range of conjunctions. Encourage him to read through his work, shaping his sentences for clarity and impact.