

## **Information for Parents about Reading**

### **Reading Together with Your Child**

Reading is a balance between decoding the words, comprehending and making meaning of the text. Whether your child is reading to you or you are reading to your child, discussion helps to build comprehension of what is being read. Effective readers ask themselves questions before, during and after reading. Talking about a book is one of the key ingredients that ensure children make a connection with the book and learn to love stories and books. Book conversations also teach children how to slow down and contemplate the contents of a book.

### **When choosing a book.**

Choose books you or your child can get excited about reading. There are so many books out there, don't spend time reading ones you won't enjoy! Any reading material that interests your child makes for good reading material. All reading is valid and may include comics, magazines, annuals, and programmes as well as traditional 'books'. If your child is interested in football, animals or fairies/ princesses then get them books about football, animals or fairies/ princesses! Once a child has become a more confident reader, then you can slowly introduce other interest topics.

### **5 Finger Rule**

Not only do students need to pick books that interest them, they also need to pick books that are at their current reading level. Before students start reading a book, they should pick a random page in the book and do the '5 Finger Rule' check. If there are more than 5 words on the page that the student cannot read, the book is above their level and they should find a new one.