How can I help my child with their reading?

As you know, your child has recently been assessed on their reading ability and comprehension skills. At Twyn School, we are very pleased to say that the majority of pupils have very good decoding skills (ability to read familiar and unfamiliar words using a range of strategies) and as a school, we are now working on developing their comprehension skills to ensure they fully understand what they are reading.

There are many comprehension strategies to develop such as:
- predicting
- inferring
- visualising
- connecting
- questioning
- summarising.

Below are examples of possible questions covering the range of comprehension strategies to ask your child BEFORE, DURING and AFTER reading.
Remember not all questions need to be asked each time your child reads to you!

Questions BEFORE Reading	Comprehension Strategy
At beginning of new book: • What do you think this book will be about? Why do you think that? • What characters do you think might be in this story?	Predicting
• What do you know about the topic of this book? (Have you ever been camping/ seen a ghost/been to a farm, etc.) • Does the topic of this book remind you of anything you know or have done?	Connecting
• What questions would you like to ask the author before you read this book? • What are you wondering about as you look at the cover and back of your book?	Questioning
If continuing a book student has been reading: • What has happened so far in this story?	Summarising
• What do you think will happen next? Why?	Predicting
• What questions would you like to ask the author about this book? • Do you have any questions about what has happened so far?	Questioning

Questions DURING Reading	Comprehension Strategy
• What do you think will happen next? Why? • How do you think the character will handle this situation?	Predicting
• Why do you think the character did _____? How do you know? • What must have happened here that the author didn't tell us? ⬚ • What emotions is the character feeling? How do you know?	Inferring
• What would you have done if you were the character? • Has anything like this ever happened to you? Does it remind you of something? • How would you have felt if that happened to you? • Do you know someone like this character? • How are you like/different than this character?	Connecting
• As you've been reading, what pictures have been in your mind? • If you were in the story, what would you hear, taste, smell or feel? • What does the character/setting look like in your mind? • Tell me what you were imagining in your mind as you read that page/paragraph.	Visualising
• Is there anything you're wondering about right now?	Questioning
• Can you put what you've just read in your own words? • What's happened to this character so far? • Tell me the most important things you read today in order of how they happened.	Summarising

Questions After Reading	Comprehension Strategy
At the end of a book: • If this story had a sequel, what do you think it would be about?	Predicting
• What is the main message of this book? • What does the author want you to think about? • What was the big idea?	Inferring
• What questions would you like to ask the author right now?	Questioning
• Tell me the story in your own words. • Retell the most important events in the story from beginning, middle and end.	Summarising
If continuing a book student has been reading: • Summarize what you have read today? Retell the most important events in order. • What's happened to this character so far?	Summarising
• What do you think will happen next? Why?	Predicting
• What questions would you like to ask the author about this book?	Questioning