DALMAIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Helping your child at home

Simple ideas for maths, reading and writing

YEAR 1

Talk every day

Talking is where reading, writing and maths begin. The more words your child hears and uses, the more they can do.

Chat at mealtimes
"What was the best part of your day? Why?"

Give thinking time
Wait, then help them say it as a full sentence.

Share new words
Use and explain words like "enormous" or "delicious".

Maths

Count everything
Stairs, toys, grapes – count forwards and backwards, and in 2s, 5s and 10s.

Make 10
Use fingers: "I'm holding up 6. How many more make 10?"

Double and halve
Share snacks fairly: "There are 8 grapes. Half of 8 is 4."

Spot the time
Look at clocks together and spot o'clock and half past.

KEY FACTS TO KNOW THIS YEAR (KIRFS)

AUTUMN 1	AUTUMN 2	SPRING 1
Number bonds within 10	Read and write numbers 1–20 in numerals and words	Doubles and halves of numbers to 10
SPRING 2	**SUMMER 1**	**SUMMER 2**
The 2 times table	The 10 times table	Tell the time to o'clock and half past

TALK LIKE A MATHEMATICIAN – ENCOURAGE FULL SENTENCES

"One more than 5 is 6."

"The whole is 10. One part is 4, so the other part must be 6."

KEY MATHS WORDS TO USE AT HOME

add · subtract · equals · total · altogether · more · fewer · greater than · less than · double · half · whole · part · equal groups

Little and often – just 10 minutes a day makes a real difference.

Reading

Read every day

10 minutes is enough. Little and often works best.

Sound it out

Say each sound, then blend them together: c-a-t, cat. Use the sounds taught at school.

Read it again

Re-reading a favourite book builds confidence and makes reading smoother.

Read to them too

Share stories they can't read yet. It grows their vocabulary and love of books.

TALK ABOUT THE BOOK

"What happened in the story?"

"Who was your favourite character? Why?"

"What do you think will happen next?"

Writing

Say it, write it, read it

Say the sentence out loud first, write it, then read it back together.

Form letters carefully

Start each letter in the right place and leave finger spaces between words.

Capitals and full stops

Check each sentence starts with a capital letter and ends with a full stop.

Write for real

Shopping lists, birthday cards, labels and notes to family all count.

YEAR 1 TRICKY WORDS TO PRACTISE

the · said · says · are · were · was · you · they · friend · school · house · once

Try **look, say, cover, write, check** with a few words each week. Ask your class teacher for the full list.

More ideas to try at home

Quick, free activities that fit into everyday life. Pick one or two a week – no worksheets needed.

MATHS **Board games**
Snakes and ladders and dice games build counting, adding and taking turns.

MATHS **Number hunt**
Spot numbers on doors, buses and price tags. Read them aloud together.

MATHS **Kitchen helper**
Count spoonfuls, share out fruit and talk about full, half full and empty.

MATHS **Shape spotting**
Find circles, squares and triangles on a walk. Which is there most of?

READING **Sound hunt**
Find things around the house that start with the sound they learnt today.

READING **Retell with toys**
Act out a favourite story with teddies, then make up a new ending.

READING **Read the world**
Read signs, menus and labels together when you're out and about.

WRITING **Make a mini book**
Fold and staple paper, then write and draw their own short story.

WRITING **Postcards and notes**
Write a short note to a relative or a message for the fridge.

WRITING **Strong fingers**
Playdough, Lego and cutting with scissors all help with handwriting.

TALK **Tell a joke**
Learn a joke each week and practise telling it clearly to the family.

TALK **Show and tell**
Ask them to explain a drawing or model: "Tell me about it."

Why reading matters

Reading for pleasure is one of the best ways to help your child do well at school. It builds vocabulary, imagination and confidence.

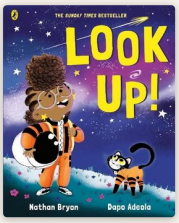
Keep sharing stories, even when they can read alone. Let them see you reading too!

Visit your local library

- Joining is **free** and children can borrow books at no cost.
- Let them choose their own books – any book they enjoy counts.
- Look out for free story times and the Summer Reading Challenge.

☆ Recommended reads for Year 1

Stories, facts, poems and comics from many voices and places. Look out for them at your local library.



PICTURE BOOK

Look Up!

Nathan Bryon & Dapo Adeola

Space-mad Rocket wants everyone to put down their phones and see a meteor shower.



TRUE STORY

Coming to England

Floella Benjamin & Diane Ewen

Floella's own story of leaving Trinidad and starting a new life in England.

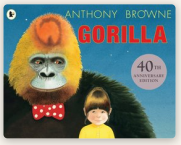


PICTURE BOOK

Funnybones

Janet & Allan Ahlberg

Two skeletons and their dog set off through the dark town to frighten someone.

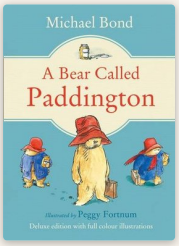


PICTURE BOOK

Gorilla

Anthony Browne

Hannah longs to see a gorilla – then one night her toy gorilla comes to life.

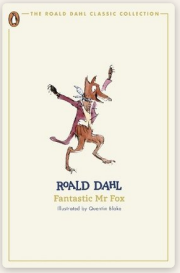


CLASSIC STORY

Paddington

Michael Bond & R. W. Alley

A bear from Peru arrives at a London station and finds a home with the Browns.

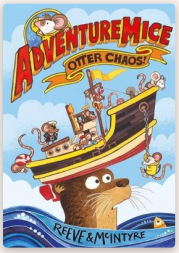


FIRST CHAPTER BOOK

Fantastic Mr Fox

Roald Dahl & Quentin Blake

Clever Mr Fox outwits three mean farmers to feed his hungry family.

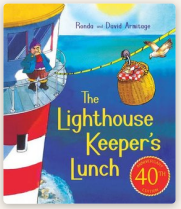


COMIC-STYLE

Adventuremice: Otter Chaos

Philip Reeve & Sarah McIntyre

A crew of brave mice set off on a funny, fully illustrated adventure.



PICTURE BOOK

The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch

Ronda & David Armitage

Cheeky seagulls keep stealing Mr Grinling's lunch – can Mrs Grinling stop them?

Find 50 more top reads

Scan the code or visit **booksfortopics.com** and choose **Recommended Reads › Year 1**.