St Catherine's CofE Primary School

Exploring Wordless Books with Your Child: A Parent's Guide

1. Start with a Pre-Reading Discussion:

- **Preview the Book:** Before diving into the story, look through the book together. Talk about the cover and any illustrations on the first few pages.
- **Ask Questions:** Encourage your child to guess what the book might be about based on the images. Questions like "What do you think is happening here?" or "What do you see in this picture?" can start a conversation and set the stage for storytelling.

2. Encourage Active Storytelling:

- **Narrate Together:** As you turn each page, prompt your child to describe what's happening in the pictures. Ask questions like "What do you think the characters are feeling?" or "What do you think will happen next?"
- **Use Imagination:** Encourage your child to imagine and fill in the gaps. For instance, if a character is shown doing something unusual, ask "Why do you think they're doing that?" or "What could be the next part of the story?"

3. Engage in Dialogue:

- **Discuss Details:** Talk about the small details in the illustrations. Ask your child to point out and describe different elements they notice.
- **Reflect on Emotions:** Discuss the emotions of the characters based on their expressions and actions. Ask questions like "How do you think this character feels?" and "Why do you think they feel that way?"

4. Ideas for extending the Storytelling:

- **Create Your Own Stories:** After finishing the book, encourage your child to come up with their own continuation or a new story using the same characters or setting.
- **Draw:** Invite your child to draw their own pictures about a short story inspired by the book. This helps reinforce their storytelling skills and creativity.

5. Make It Interactive:

- **Act It Out:** Use props or dress up to act out parts of the story. This can make the story come alive and be even more engaging.
- **Role Play:** Let your child take the lead as the storyteller while you play a supportive role. This encourages confidence and creativity.

6. Revisit and Reflect:

- **Re-read Together:** Revisit the book and see if your child notices new details or comes up with different interpretations. Each reading can offer a fresh perspective.
- **Discuss What They've Learned:** After several readings, discuss what your child has learned from the book and how their understanding or imagination has evolved.

By engaging with wordless books in these ways, you're helping your child develop essential skills while also making reading a fun and interactive experience. Enjoy the journey of storytelling together!