

September 24

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we start our new academic year, we are excited to share with you how we continue to ensure that reading remains at the heart of everything that we do as a school.

The importance of reading in a child's life has been identified as a key area of their development. Reading enables a 360-degree growth of an individual. It develops thought process, expands viewpoints and keeps the mind active. As a school, we have built our whole curriculum around the development of all children's love for literature across all genres. Reading, in its many forms, is positively promoted through an extensive selection of books and other resource materials, in order to enable children to become enthusiastic, responsive and knowledgeable readers. Across the school we continually strive to embed and develop, through our teaching of reading and through our continued encouragement of reading for pleasure, an attitude of confidence and perseverance within increasingly fluent, language rich, well-read children. Reading remains central to our identity as a school: Reading for pleasure, not just for learning, is key to this.



As parents and carers, you too play a vital role in supporting your child in becoming a fluent reader who is confidently able to apply their reading skills across all areas of their lives. The teaching of reading and reading comprehension within the classroom is only part of a child's learning, and the value that is given to reading at home is equally important. Research suggests that children who read regularly outside of school perform significantly better in school assessments and so your support at home is essential in ensuring that your child makes the progress they are truly capable of.



You can help your child to achieve their full potential by listening to them **read daily** (for about 20 minutes), reading regular bedtime stories and by encouraging them to enjoy reading and sharing books together. Reading widely through all of these approaches will help develop your child's vocabulary, which in turn will make them more confident when reading more challenging books. Your support with reading at home is essential and only by working together can we ensure your child achieves their potential as a reader and as a learner.

Home Reading: School Expectations

- Our school expectation is that all children read at least 3 times a week. As a school, we encourage all children to exceed the minimum expectation by reading **at least 5 times a week**. Books from our school reading scheme should be read on at least 3 nights, but free choice on all other nights is encouraged. Giving your child a choice over what they read is an important factor in boosting their enthusiasm for reading and children are more likely to be interested in books they have selected for themselves. **Reading at home should be recorded for the relevant week in their home school organiser (HSO) and signed by an adult.** Children who read at least 5 times a week earn 2 Dojo points and a raffle ticket for their class £5 book voucher termly raffle.
- Each week, a sticker is placed in each child's HSO explaining the Shared Reading that has taken place. This sticker supports further home discussions by raising points to ponder or new vocabulary that have arisen from the week's learning.
- From KS1, children are also encouraged to read a range of additional free-choice reading covering fiction, non-fiction and poetry with the addition of magazines and newspapers. This is to encourage children to develop depth and breadth as a reader by reading a wide variety of books.

We are very fortunate as a school to have our two key stage libraries which the children have weekly access to. Our Year 6 librarians and parent helpers, together with your child(ren)'s class teacher(s), will happily support your child(ren) to choose suitable books of interest. To help you and your child(ren) make appropriate choices about the books they read, you may also find the following websites useful:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/bookfinder/>

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/category/reading-lists-for-primary-school-pupils/>



<https://clpe.org.uk/books/booklists>

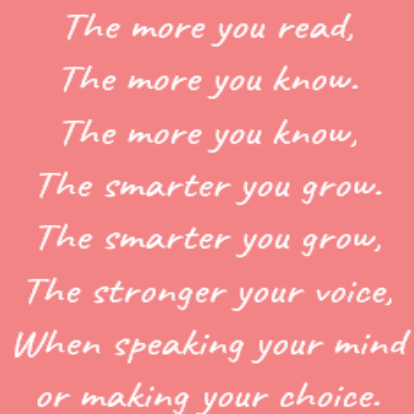
<https://www.thereaderteacher.com/>

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/reading-for-pleasure/>

As a school, we will also continue to also send out our termly Reading Newsletter that includes recommended reads for all ages, often hot off the press.

Finally, if you are friends with an author who you think would be happy to support our school either by sharing their work in an assembly or running workshops for some of our children, we would of course love to hear from you.

Thank you for your continued support and let's keep reading!



*The more you read,
The more you know.
The more you know,
The smarter you grow.
The smarter you grow,
The stronger your voice,
When speaking your mind
or making your choice.*

