



Reading at Home

Friday 6th October, 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Reading is a skill we continue to develop throughout our lives, but starting this process as early as possible has significant benefits for our continued success as readers. This is why, as parents and carers, you 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 capable of. You can help your child to achieve their full potential by listening to them read daily (for about 15 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.

Levelled Reading Books

We have recently purchased a considerable amount of new home reading books for the children to enjoy. Your child's reading has been assessed using a system called, 'PM Benchmarking'. This system assesses a child's fluency and comprehension of a text and their ability to retell it. They have been given a 'levelled' reading book and this will be one that your child should read aloud to you. There are questions within the book which will support your child's comprehension skills.

To help us track how much reading your child is doing at home, it is important that you sign their reading record every day, along with a brief comment. Your support with reading at home is essential and only by working together can we ensure your child achieves their potential as a reader. If you require any further guidance regarding reading, please ask your child's class teacher.

These books and reading records should be returned to school EVERY DAY - even if they are not ready to be changed. If children do not read at home, they will be supported to read in school at break time.

Thank you for your continued support and happy reading!

Year 3 Team

P.T.O. for some information that really puts the importance of reading into context!

Research shows that 'Poor vocabulary is the primary cause of academic failure.' [Becker 1977]. Aside from the direct teaching of vocabulary, which we undertake at school, reading is the most valuable way in which we can develop children's spoken and written vocabulary.

This vital vocabulary development starts at an early age, in the years before children even begin primary school. The following statistics demonstrate how important reading is to children's early development:

- By the age of two, children **learn a new word every two hours**. This means that by the time they start school, they should be familiar with over 10,000 words.
- Children **who do well** in primary school have over **7,000 root words**, whereas those who are unable to meet age-related expectations have only about **3,000 root words**.
- There is a difference in reading performance equivalent to **just over a year's schooling** between young people who never read for enjoyment and those **who read for up to 30 minutes per day**.
- A child with weak language skills at age five is **much less likely to be a strong reader** at the age of 11 than a five-year-old with strong language skills.
- Children who often read books at age 10 and more than once a week at age 16 **gain higher results** in maths, vocabulary and spelling tests at age 16 than those who read less regularly.