

Tuesday, 5th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Reading Update



We welcome you back from the summer break and into our new academic year. Over the summer, the staff at school have been reviewing how we can improve the children's learning and experience of reading. This letter outlines some changes we plan to make, regarding reading and our reading books.

Earlier in the year, the Department for Education (DfE) produced a document that provides a framework outlining the importance of reading. The framework was written to ensure that children begin to learn to read by being taught the key skills via a synthetic phonics programme. The framework also discusses how to engage children in reading for pleasure and how to encourage them to share books with others.

With this in mind, we plan to provide the following in the coming year:

Your child will, once a week, bring home three different types of books, and they will be:

1. A reading book that is phonetically de-codable which they should be able to read using their prior knowledge of phonics.
2. A reading book for pleasure. Your child will have the opportunity to choose a book that they wish to read. This book should be slightly challenging and we recommend that you read this book with them.
3. A library book from our reading corner. Again, your child will have the opportunity to choose their library book. This book is for sharing with family members and they do not have to read this, you can read it to them.

Your child's books will only be changed after they have had them for a week. The reading government's framework, quite rightly, states that children thrive on repetition.

'It is not just the number of different stories children listen to that matters. On each rereading, their familiarity with a story deepens and, with that, comes a greater emotional engagement. When children ask for a story to be re-read, in effect they are asking for another chance to explore the language, the characters and their feelings, and to relive the emotions they felt on the first reading. They hear the same words read in the same way and gain a sense of comfort in knowing what follows. They wait for their favourite bits, ready to join in or ready to be scared, even when they already know what happens. Their attachment to the story equips them to retell it and, when they have learnt to read, encourages them to read it for themselves'

I have arranged a reading meeting next week to further discuss how to support your child in reading and I very much hope you will be able to attend. Please do ask if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Stockham