



Reading at Home Lower KS2



Dear Parents,

Once children have developed the basic skills of reading, there can be a risk that their motivation and enthusiasm begins to lessen. This is a vital sign in children's reading development and the point at which parents can offer invaluable support. Taking the time to talk to your children about the books they choose and regularly listening to them reading aloud can make all the difference. Children need to understand why we read. They need to experience the range of feelings that a book can create or the power that can be gained from accessing information.

Reading must not be confined to just stories. Many children love reading comics, magazines, newspapers, information books and poetry. All of these reading activities should be encouraged. The children have regular access to First News (a newspaper for children) and The National Geographic Magazine (Children's edition) at school along with a wide selection of graphic novels, non-fiction texts, poetry and fiction. They are welcome to borrow these, and take them home to read, as long as they return them.

Children in KS2 will be at varying stages of development, but even for the most fluent readers there is a need for parental support. Most parents/grandparents or carers are able to create quality time to share a book individually with a child. This is the time when children can develop a much deeper understanding of the books that they are reading. Rather than reading at home being 'reading practice', it should extend and enrich the reading experience. One of the most powerful ways in which parents can do this is to show real enthusiasm themselves. Your sense of excitement about books and stories, your anticipation about what will happen next in a story and a discussion about your own likes and dislikes, will greatly influence your child. Asking questions that go beyond the literal meaning of the book will help your child to think more deeply about what they are reading.

Do encourage your child to use the class and school libraries, along with the local library. And please make sure you keep up a regular dialogue with school about what your child is reading. There should be at least one reading entry in the Home/School Diary each week, but that comment doesn't always need to be written by you, it can be written by the child themselves or anyone who is hearing them read. The most important thing is that we know what is being read and whether they are enjoying it. If your child is not enjoying what they are reading, please stop reading it and ask them to change the book. Reading needs to be fun!

Thank you for your continued support, *Mrs Brett*.

