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Dear Parents & Carers,

I would like to update you with how the children will be selecting their reading books.

We have now re-banded all the reading books in school to link with the two schemes we are using to teach reading; Read Write Inc and Accelerated Reader.

What is Read Write Inc? Read Write Inc is a phonics-based programme which helps children learn to read whilst also developing a wide range of vocabulary and encouraging a love of stories. The children will begin the programme in Fledglings and will remain on the programme throughout year 1. Children will continue on the programme until they are at the expected reading level for year 2. Our aim is that the majority of children will come off the scheme early in year 2, however some children may remain on the scheme into years 3 and 4. Read Write Inc books are levelled by colour, children will bring home a reading book that reinforces the sounds they have learnt and corresponds to their reading ability. Once the coloured levels are completed, children will move onto Accelerated Reader.

What Is Accelerated Reader? Accelerated Reader is a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. Your child picks a book at his/her own level and reads it at his/her own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer. Reading practice quizzes are a form of assessment in Accelerated Reader. The purpose of these quizzes is to determine whether your child has read a book, to measure your child's comprehension of the book and to provide immediate feedback. Passing the quiz is an indication that your child understood what was read. Accelerated Reader gives both children and teachers feedback based on the quiz results, which the teacher then uses to help your child set targets and direct ongoing reading practice.

Children using Accelerated Reader choose levelled books that they want to read, rather than having one assigned to them. This makes reading a much more enjoyable experience as they can choose books that are of interest to them. The children will take a short Star Reading test on the computer which will determine the level of reading book they may choose.

Teaching staff will help your child choose books at an appropriate reading level and interest level that are challenging without being frustrating, ensuring that your child can pass the quiz and experience success and this success will encourage your child to read more. Your child does not need to do the quizzes at home.

There will be dedicated timetabled periods during the school day for children to practise their reading, choose new books and take the quizzes. Books in each classroom and in our newly organised school library have been levelled according to the Accelerated Reader levels.

Changing Home Reading Books

Our days for changing reading books will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday, if the book has been finished or a quiz has been taken successfully. The children will bring home a yellow Reading Record book for you to write a comment on and keep us informed of how reading is going at home.

How can I help my child become a better reader?

Your child's reading experience is much more than the reading book which comes home from school. Reading is happening all the time in the classroom and in school. It is taught in specific reading and English lessons, but children are practising and using their 'reading' constantly across all subjects too.

Parents can support this 'reading journey' through regular reading at home. Reading to and with your child every evening can make a dramatic difference to a child's achievement within school. Research has shown that children who read outside of class are 13 times more likely to read above the expected level for their age.

5 Top Tips

1. Make time to read 5 times a week - reading with your child, no matter what the child's age, is an important part of developing a good reader, building a lifelong love of reading and learning.
2. Choose different types of books- start a home library, visit your local library or bookshop or charity shop.
3. Take turns to read, let your child see you read.
4. Talk about the book, stop and ask questions to be sure your child is comprehending what they have read.
5. Enjoy reading and sharing books, comics, magazines, e-books and other reading materials.

If you have any questions or queries, please contact me via your class teacher or class dojo.

Kind regards

Nicola Mellett

(English lead/ Assistant Head)