

***A love of reading is the biggest indicator of future academic success.***  
*OECD (The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development)*

Good Morning,

We are now seven weeks into our new Early Reading Programme, 'Little Wandle'. All children from F2 and Year 1 and many from Year 2 are accessing daily phonic sessions and three reading sessions per week. Some children in Year 3 and 4 have also been taking part.

As I wander around school there is a wonderful atmosphere and real buzz about the place. I can really sense an enjoyment and love of reading. The children are really proud and have been excited to show me their work and listen to them read. They are engaged and are making good progress, which is a pleasure to see!

Next half term we will continue to embed our new programme and send Little Wandle books home for children to show you what they have achieved. We hope you are enjoying listening to your child read and finding out about what they have been learning. If you are unsure about the types of questions to ask about the books your child reads, please refer to the back of the book, where you will find support and the types of questions to ask. We ask that you support us in celebrating your child's success as this is a vital part in their learning and commitment to reading and ensure your child's books are returned on the day specified by their class teacher. Please encourage your child to take care of books they bring home as we have invested a huge amount of money and will struggle to replace them so soon! Thank you.

***Reading a book and chatting had a positive impact a year later on children's ability to...***

- *understand words and sentences*
- *use a wide range of vocabulary*
- *develop listening comprehension skills.*

*The amount of books children were exposed to by age 6 was a positive predictor of their reading ability two years later.*

Parental involvement in the development of children's reading skills: A five-year longitudinal study (2002) Senechal, M. and Lefvre, J

This half term we have been busy creating our new Reading display in our library area, 'The Culture of Reading at HGPS'. Please see attached photos. Thank you to all of the parents who took pictures of their children reading for pleasure at home and thank you to staff who shared, with us, the books they are enjoying reading at the moment. Teachers too are readers!

We have been busy organising and developing our 'free reading' lending library in school and are pleased that all pupils now take home a reading for pleasure book home to share with you.

We are excited to be in the process of reinstating our F2 story sacks. May we take this opportunity to thank Mrs Joanna Evans who is busy organising this and putting these sacks together, in her own time, for our children. Information regarding F2 children borrowing these, to enjoy at home, will be sent out after October half term. Thank you again for all of your support.

***One of the greatest gifts adults can give is to read to children***  
*Carl Sagan*

Have a lovely half term.  
Kind regards  
The English Team.