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Jerounds Weekly Communication

'Reading is the golden key to a lifetime's opportunities'

Dear Parent/Carers,

A warm welcome back to the spring term and to another exciting schedule of teaching and learning.

Our work on *Relationships, Metacognition/Self-regulation, Language Communication and Comprehension, and SEMH (trauma perceptive practice/zones of regulation)* from the autumn term, will continue into the spring term, with an even greater focus upon *metacognitive talk*. Our evaluative reflections from the end of last term, highlighted multiple positive outcomes for our children, coupled with a deepening understanding of the metacognitive process. please do take some time out to ask your children of this process and note how succinctly they are able to articulate what it is and how it assists THEIR learning! Moreover, our children's ability to reflect upon how they *plan, monitor and evaluate* their learning behaviours, will be a crucial factor to how successfully they access secondary school and the wider working world. The more we can make a thinking process visible to our children, the better we will be able to understand how to use it more effectively.

Reading continues to be at the very heart of all we do here at Jerounds. Interestingly, a regular visitor to Jerounds and our previous Chair of Trustee Governors, Roy Blatchford, who now chairs the Essex Task Force, recently wrote an excellent article (see below) showcasing many of the strategies and processes, we explicitly use to promote fluent readers and a genuine passion for reading. Perhaps one of the greatest joys of being on the gate each morning, is hearing first-hand from parents and carers how their child's love of reading has significantly increased over recent years. This is wonderful news indeed; especially as 2022 represents *'Essex Year of Reading'*.

Roy Blatchford, January 2022

The Covid pandemic has changed not only the habits of work, but also those of leisure. Having spent more time at home for much of the past two years, we have all shown a renewed enthusiasm for reading - and book buying.

More than 200 million print books were sold in Britain in 2020 - worth £6.4 billion. So, the familiar pleasure of turning the pages of a book have not been replaced by screens. Thank goodness. The old-fashioned technology of the written word is the entertainment of the age - and for all ages.

What better news then to kick off the Essex Year of Reading 2022! Let us get Essex reading - in every family, every business, every community.

And what can this mean for schools? Let us be properly ambitious for 2022: Every primary school to say to itself: almost all children will, at age 11+, have a reading

age which at least matches their actual age. *And track reading ages from the early years to Year 6.*

- Every secondary school to say to itself: no matter the child's starting point, almost all will read at least in line with their actual age by the time they reach 16+. *And track reading ages from Year 7 to Year 11.*

So, what's to do?

An easy reading agenda

First, schools need a rigorous approach to word recognition: enabling children to use a phonetic approach, to divide words into syllables for pronunciation, to have a knowledge of prefixes and suffixes.

Second, a planned approach to vocabulary development: learning new words, keywords and concepts, technical abbreviations and etymology, symbols and formulae - through regular and consistent use of a dictionary and a thesaurus.

Third, a systematic engagement with comprehension and organisation of text: summarising what has been read, distinguishing essential from non-essential, fact from opinion, drawing inferences and conclusions, noting cause and effect, reading between the lines.

Fourth, a programme to promote reading interests: voluntary reading for pleasure, reading for personal information, developing a passion for particular subjects, the use of the school library, the downloading onto the iPad of a favourite biography.

Fifth, a whole-school approach to study skills: sitting still long enough to read, using skimming for different purposes, reading maps and graphs, learning how to take notes, reading more rapidly with adequate comprehension, forming the study habit.

Other News/Reminders...

May I please remind all parent/carers, that school opens at 08:30 daily. All children are expected to be entering the school gates at 08:30. Teacher tuition/interventions begin at 08:30 promptly. Subsequently, your child's attendance is essential. Your support with this matter is greatly appreciated.

Likewise, please do continue with Jerounds' commitment to school uniform. Should new items of clothing need to be purchased over the coming weeks, parents/carers are required to adhere to the school's expectation, as listed on our website. We have also added a school tracksuit as we have noted an increased number of children do not have a warm layer of clothing to wear during the autumn and winter months.

Individual photographs and sibling photographs will be taken next Friday, 14th January, 2022. Please remember school photographs require usual uniform expectations: NO jewellery and all long hair is to be tied back neatly.

Meanwhile, I wish you all a relaxing weekend and look forward to seeing many of you across the coming term and discussing your child's progress with the 'Metacognitive Process'.

With best wishes,

Mrs Laura Çiftçi BA (Hons) MEd
Head of School

