

7<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Dear Parents

### **Reading Journal Homework**

Today you will find a reading journal in your child's book bag. This is the book in which we do all our literacy homework. This homework is based on your child's current reading book. Please could you spend some time with your child to cover the book attractively using good quality wrapping paper. The cover should have your child's name and class clearly displayed.

### **Reading Records**

In addition to reading journals your child will be receiving a reading record. The children should fill in one row each time they read. Children or parents can write a (brief) comment. Please note teachers will not be reading these on a daily basis so if you do have something to communicate with the class teacher, you should catch us in the playground or send an email.

### **Reading Books**

Your child should be reading an appropriate book for their ability. For most children we will be teaching them to select books independently which are the correct level for them. Some children will continue to work on a reading scheme whilst others will be supported in choosing appropriate books. At home you can support your child by helping them to select a book for themselves from home or a local library by:

- Looking at the clues on the front cover;
- Reading the blurb;
- Reading one page at random and checking there are no more than 2 words which they don't recognise.

There are also books in class and in the school library which children are welcome to take home and read. The main point is **your child should have a reading book at all times.**

### **Reading with your Child**

Whilst most children are now competent readers, this does NOT mean that they should be left to read alone. It is vital for their development as analytic thinkers that they are supported by an adult on a regular basis. It is appropriate at different times to read quietly with an adult; read aloud to an adult, sibling or group of people; have stories read or told to

them; and to be left to read independently. A child left to read independently 100% of the time with no extra input will often fail to make adequate progress in terms of understanding what they are reading.

The benefit of adult support is that the adult can ask challenging questions about the meaning of the texts, challenge children to make links to their understanding of the world, summarise, predict and offer opinions and, most importantly, foster a love of reading.

Many thanks for all your efforts



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