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Headteacher

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Reading Books

Dear Parent/Carer,

Reading is a vital part of your child's learning and as a school we encourage children to take reading books home in order to extend their learning and enjoy reading outside of the classroom.

Sharing a book with your child is fun! It's a time for closeness, laughing and talking together – and it can also give children a flying start in life and helps them become lifelong readers. Research has shown that reading for pleasure can make a huge difference to children - not only academically but also socially and emotionally.

If you're not feeling confident about reading aloud or sharing books, don't worry – there's no right or wrong way to enjoy a story together. Don't worry if you don't have a lot of time in your busy day either, just a few minutes can make a huge difference.

Here are a few pointers to help you out:

- *If you can, turn off the TV radio and computer. It's easy for both of you to enjoy the story without any distractions.*
- *Sit close together. You could encourage your child to hold the book themselves and turn the pages too.*
- *Take a look at the pictures- you don't just have to read the words on the page maybe there's something funny in the pictures that you can figure out together or perhaps your child enjoys guessing what will happen next.*
- *Ask questions and talk about the book - like Who? What? When? Where? Why?*
- *Look at the front cover or the last chapter and talk about what might happen next. Look for clues in the book and be a reading detective! For example, 'Can you see the bear on the front cover? Where do you think he will go?'*
- *When you've finished reading, talk about what happened.*
- *Find a regular time for reading in your child's day, so that they can begin to expect it as part of their routine. This can be any time of day. Some children enjoy reading before bed, but others can just be too exhausted at night. It might be better for some children to read just after dinner, or in the morning after breakfast when they have more energy.*
- *Your child doesn't have to read an entire book in one go! Any time spent sharing or talking about a book is beneficial, even if it's just a couple of minutes at a time. If they have to close the book early because it's time for tea, or they're just losing interest, that's okay.*
- *Join your local library. Libraries are full of great advice and recommendations, and you'll have a new supply of books to enjoy.*
- *Get other family members involved. Storytime is something that everyone can enjoy, and it's a great way to bond.*

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- *Books are great—but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions on a webpage can all be great too. Following a recipe to make some cupcakes is valuable reading. Be on the lookout for reading, wherever it is!*
- *Have fun! There's is no right or wrong way to share a story - as long as you and your child are having fun. Don't be afraid to act out situations or put on funny voices, your little ones will love it.*
- *Don't panic if your child reads the same book over and over again let's be honest - we've all done it.*

When and what should your child be reading?

In Reception and Key Stage 1, your child will receive a **Monster Phonics reading book** – this is for your child to practise and develop their reading. You can encourage them to sound out the words they come across to decode them. They will also receive a **'reading for pleasure' story book** for you to read to/with your child. Your class teachers will let you know when these books should be returned each week so they can be changed.

In Key Stage 2, children will bring home a **book to read for pleasure at their reading level**. Those children who require additional support with their reading may bring home a reading book linked to phonics.

These books will be coming home this week!

What is your responsibility as a parent?

Our expectation is that all parents must listen to their child read and **complete and sign their reading record at least once a week**.

Our children also have the opportunity to visit our local library or the school library half termly to take an additional book out to read and enjoy in school. We would encourage you to take your child to the local library to foster their love for reading outside of school.

Home Reading books need to be kept safe, both in and out of school and it is important that children bring their book with them to school each day. In the unlikely event that a reading book is lost or damaged, there will be a charge of **£3.00** per book in order to replace it. The money should be brought into school or paid for via Arbor.

We hope that your child finds true joy in the books that they read and look forward to working together to create lifelong readers.

Happy reading!

Yours sincerely,

Mel Bowman

Deputy headteacher