

Dear Parents,

Do you want your child to be good at reading?

Reading widely and for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of future success for children. Reading regularly from a wide range of quality literature has been proven in numerous studies to be the best thing your child could do to improve their overall academic performance and to encourage a life long love of learning.

With this in mind, and to support parents in promoting a love of reading, we are launching a school wide challenge for all pupils, entitled:

The Book-it list, 100 books to read before you leave!

This challenge consists of two lists: List one for EYFS and KS1, List two for KS2. Within these two lists are book titles which support and extend literacy taught in schools and also promote a love of reading through favourite and well known books for children. The chart below shows the impact reading at home for just 20 minutes every night can have. It is staggering the difference just 20 minutes per day can make.

Child A	Child B	Child C
20 minutes additional reading at home everyday	5 minutes additional reading at home per day	1 minute additional reading at home per day
60 hours per school year	15 hours per school year	3 hours per school year
1,800,000 words per school year (one million, eight hundred thousand words)	282,000 words per school year (two hundred and eighty two thousand words)	8000 words per school year (eight thousand words)
By the end of Y6, <i>60 whole days' reading</i>	By the end of Y6, 12 days' reading	By the end of Y6, 3 days' reading
Reading scores usually within 90% range	Reading scores usually within 50% range	Reading scores usually within 10% range

We will be encouraging all children in school to read and share as many of the books from the lists as possible at home and in their own time. We shall be replenishing our existing book stock to reflect the focus on these titles and will be incorporating many of them in the units of work taught in class.

We do not necessarily expect children to read all of the books by themselves but would encourage parents to read them as "bedtime stories" and as books to share as a family when reading together. This type of reading together would still count as part of the reading challenge.

Even for those children who can read the books independently, hearing books read aloud and modelled by an adult is still an extremely important part of reading development, as is talking about books they have read. We would therefore encourage all adults involved with your child's reading at home to encourage reading together or reading aloud to your independent child reader. The more adults who can read to or with your child, the better. Every adult will bring a different perspective to a story or ask different questions; this will really help with a child's comprehension of a story if they re-read it with lots of different adults at home.

We shall also be contacting the company used in the school's Book Fair to encourage them to bring titles to the Fair which are included on the school's reading list. Pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium can purchase other titles with their Pupil Premium free book tokens later in the year. All titles are also readily available at local libraries and are also all currently in print on websites such as WHSmith, Amazon and Waterstones. Reading support and practice is also available for all children who attend breakfast club and after school club. During the next Parents' evening, Miss Turner will also be running a stall where you can browse some of the titles and discuss any aspects of the reading challenge. Feel free to read a few titles whilst you wait for your appointment!

If a child manages to complete 100 titles from the suggested lists by the time they leave a Key Stage, they will receive a special certificate and gift from the school, as well as having markedly improved their reading and overall academic performance.

The lists themselves have been compiled in consultation with staff, pupils and authors, as well as using guidance from specialist Literacy organisations such as "Booktrust". We shall be constantly looking to update the lists as new books are published or where we feel we may have overlooked a classic book; please therefore feel free to let us know some suggestions for inclusion when the updated list is issued.

We hope that you enjoy reading these titles with your child. The lists themselves include classic and modern titles, as well as books from prizewinning authors and illustrators. Within the lists, we hope that you will discover some old favourites and find some new titles to enjoy but most importantly, find some books which your child absolutely loves and which motivate them to read independently for pleasure.

Good luck and happy reading!

Emma Turner & Claire Mitchell

Co Head teachers