

Important Information about Reading

Reading Newsletter 1 – November 25th 2014

As those of you that attended one of our reading information meetings last week are already aware, we are planning to change the way in which we organise reading at school.

There are a number of reasons for this:

- Our achievement in reading is not as good as it should be!
- Many children in our school stop reading for pleasure as they get older.
- Many children find our 'levelled' reading books unstimulating.
- Parents do not always have enough information to help their children.
- Our library is not well-used.

What we want to achieve:

- We want all our children to love reading!
- We want children that are able to read 'independently' to choose **one book** and to read that book with enthusiasm and good understanding. At the moment, children seem to have several books on the go at the same time!
- We want to make sure that children carry on developing their reading skills throughout Key Stage 2 so that they understand what they read and can learn from what they read.
- We want parents to *support children* with their reading past the early reading stage and on through the stage at which they seem to be able to read independently.

How we will do this:

- Reorganise all our reading books into 'genres' - categories based on their subject (mysteries, histories, comedies, animal stories etc.)
- Help children 'choose' a book that interests them from the different genres.
- Help children choose a book which is the right level of difficulty for them.
- Help parents support children with their reading.

This is the beginning of this process and it will be necessary to close-down the current systems for two weeks before Christmas – this will give us time to re-label all the school books and re-organise them in the library (one place).

January 2015

At the start of the Spring Term, we aim to have the library ready for the children to begin choosing their own books. We would like parents to support this so will be opening the library from the KS1 playground at 8.30am so that parents can help children select a book and scan it out using our computer library system.

Our next steps

- Improve our reading stock – we need to spend a lot of money on books!
- Improve our record systems and the way we communicate with parents about reading.
- Give more parents guidance on how best to support children’s reading - share reading targets!

We have a lot to do but we are sure that these measures will improve outcomes for the children. There will undoubtedly be some ‘hiccoughs’ as we implement some of these changes and I hope that you will all bear with us as we sort out the problems along the way. We are committed to making reading a much better experience for all our children. We will try to give you lots of information to help you and keep you informed at each stage. Look out for the next Reading Letter!

Your support is very much appreciated.

Debbie Bastin
Headteacher