



Reading Power

Dear Parents,

Did you know that we were one of the first primary schools in England to scrap homework and replace it with SMART learning? Our reasoning was to give you an opportunity to work with your child at home on the things that really make a difference to their learning rather than completing worksheets and other thankless tasks.

Why is reading so important?

Studies show that reading for pleasure makes a big difference to children's educational performance. Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures.

FACT: reading for pleasure is more likely to determine whether a child does well at school than their social or economic background.

Your child's reading record indicates that they are not reading daily at home- please help to make a difference to them by finding time in the day and at weekends to share a book. If you are doing this but not recording it in their diary, please start to do so.

What difference can I make as a parent?

You can make a huge difference!

FACT: Parents are the most important educators in a child's life - even more important than their teachers.

The lack of reading recorded in your child's reading diary indicates that you may not be making the biggest difference you can. Please try to read with your child everyday- you are much more able to give them 1-1 time than we can in school with 30 children in a class. YOU can make a big difference and we need your help.

Building vocabulary and understanding

Learning to read is about listening and understanding as well as working out what's printed on the page. Through hearing stories, children are exposed to a wide range of words. This helps them build their own vocabulary and improve their understanding when they listen, which is vital as they start to read. It's important for them to understand how stories work too. Even if your child doesn't understand every word, they'll hear new sounds, words and phrases which they can then try out, copying what they have heard.

FACT: children who learn to become fluent readers by aged 9 and read independently everyday or nearly everyday, achieve significantly higher than children who only do so twice a week.

At the moment, your child's reading record indicates that they are not reading every day. This means they are unlikely to reach their academic potential. As their parent/carer, you are able to change this by insisting on reading everyday with them. We need your help to make a difference to your child.

Positive attitudes when reading is a challenge

Some people find reading and writing more of a challenge than others. This could be because of dyslexia or other learning difficulties. It is really important that we do not teach our children that just because they find something hard, they should avoid it. We need to do the opposite. They need to learn the skills to be persistent, determined and resilient. Children don't walk the first time they stand up, but they have no fear of trying over and over again until they succeed. This must be the same with reading.

FACT: if you read every day with your child, they will get better and find it easier. Suddenly, everything at school will be easier for them and with success comes more enjoyment.

**We need your help to unlock your child's potential.
Please read with them everyday at home.**

Thank you for your support- together, we can achieve more.