

The Importance of hearing your child read.

Dear Parents,

Now we are in the final term of Reception we wanted to write to you all to remind you of the importance of hearing your child read. We know that life can be very busy and hectic but we wanted to point out the significant benefit and progress your child could make if they were reading at home on a daily basis. We would ask you to aim for a 10-minute session a day, which could be a mixture of hearing your child read and you reading to them.

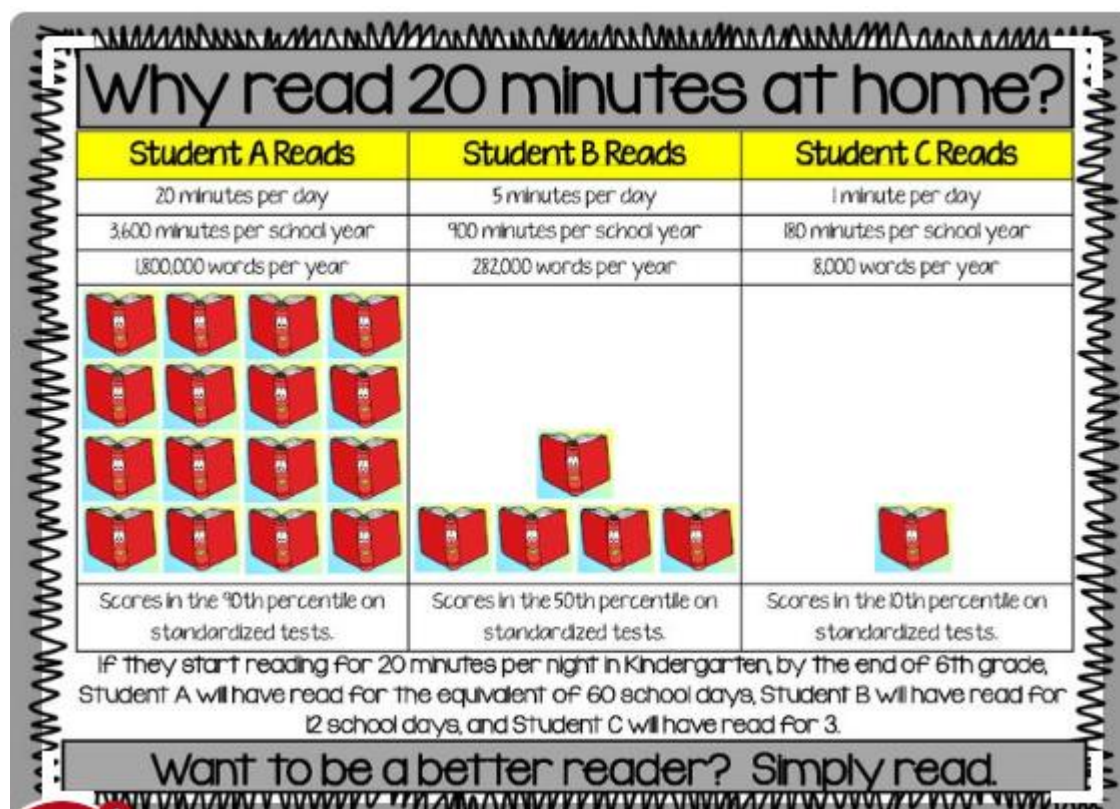
The classroom is a busy environment and whilst we do hear your child read at least once week, this is not enough practise for them and some of our children need to be doing more reading at home. Hearing your child read will accelerate their current rate of progress and when they move into Year 1 the homework expectation is that they read for 10-20 minutes every day, so it would be good to set some solid routines.

We also ask that you ensure you fill in the reading record books so we can look at your feedback. This helps us to monitor if what we see in school matches what you are finding at home. These reading record books need to be in their book bags every day. Please check that your child has their reading book at the end of the day and help them change their book at the beginning of the day. If your child goes to Rainbows, then please let us know if you would like school staff to support them with this.

The attached material might help in supporting your child with reading, please come and talk to us if you have any worries or concerns.

Thank you again for your continued support

Mrs Summers and Mrs Thomas



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WHAT DO I WRITE IN THE READING RECORD?

The Reading Record reflects the child's reading patterns. Regular comments from parents are needed to show that the child is extending his/her reading through questioning and interaction with an adult. The following list offers some suggestions. Parents are not expected to comment on each of the following areas after each reading session!

- How enthusiastic is the child about the choice of book?
- Can the child remember the story so far?
- Is the child reading using only the pictures for clues?
- Does your child understand that the words they are reading mean something?
- Can the child read words out of context e.g. when you point to a word at random?
- Is the child confident to attempt new words?
- What reading strategies is your child using e.g. sounds, use of the picture, use of the context?
- Can the child follow the text without using a finger or marker?
- Is there a pattern to the mistakes your child is making e.g. words ending in "ed" or starting in "sh"?
- Does the child recognise mistakes and self correct?
- Is the child aware of punctuation?
- Is the child reading with expression?
- How long is the child able to sustain reading?

WHAT IF READING BECOMES A CHALLENGE AT HOME?

- We would like all of our children to enjoy reading rather than see it as an effort OR something they don't enjoy.
- Try to avoid confrontation
- Offer alternative reading material, e.g. internet access, magazines, non – fiction, free choice, etc...
- Encourage reading at different times of the day or week
- Find a place to sit that suits you **both**
- Share reading activities and interact with the text together
- Share the problem with your child's teacher, we are here to help!

Reading to your child

Remember that it is also important for children to be read to. There is almost universal agreement that listening to stories is 'good' for children who are learning to read. You can motivate your child to read by regularly sharing a book with them. Your child will sense your love of books, your enjoyment of a good story and your appreciation of good illustrations. With younger children it can be fun to read familiar stories together, pointing at the words and allowing children to enjoy the stories, join in with well-known stories and develop ideas of the relationship between sound and print. With children of any age it will help to develop imagination and enrich vocabulary development.

Some useful websites

Some useful websites for you:

www.lettersandsounds.com – contains Phonics support
www.parentlink.co.uk - contains ideas to help at home
www.bbc.co.uk - school section (words and pictures for phonic activities)
www.literacytrust.org.uk
www.crickweb.co.uk/assets/resources/flash.php?&file=ww
www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/interactive/onlinestory.htm
www.snaithprimary.eril.net/rindex.htm—nursery rhymes