



Dear Parent/carers,

As a school each year we have a number of key priority areas, where we work hard to make improvements. Last year we had a focus on **maths** across the whole school; this has really worked to improve children's confidence and standards.

This year one of our key priorities is **reading**. Over the last few weeks we have been working hard to find out how we can improve reading, by working with reading experts, evaluating our current provision and listening to you. Thank you to those who responded to our questionnaires to find out what you think.

#### **What we've found out**

We know that early reading in school is excellent. Our younger children make rapid progress and enjoy reading through our Read Write Inc programme. Unfortunately once children have achieved a good level of accuracy and fluency, and have completed the Read Write Inc programme, they become much less enthusiastic about the books that they take home and in some cases see these books as really boring!

The very last thing that we want is for any child to be turned off reading by reading the wrong book.

#### **What we are going to about it**

When children complete the Read Write Inc programme we are going to allow the children to be 'free readers'. This means that the children will be able to choose their own books from our school library and use this as their reading book. We want the children to take this book between home and school every day so that they can fully immerse themselves in that book and really enjoy it. We will teach your child strategies to develop their reading and listen to your child read. We will have a range of reading activities and workshops in school to help you to help your child.

#### **What you can do to help**

**Be enthusiastic** about the books your children choose and bring home. We want all children to **LOVE** reading and your attitudes towards this will have a big impact.

**Get involved** – this can be done in many simple ways;

- **Talk to your child about the book** they are reading, "What's the story about?... Who are the main characters?... What do you think might happen?... What makes you think that?... I wonder what's going to happen next?..." Tell them your thoughts, "I think it might be about.... because...."
- **Listen to your child read aloud every day** and fill in their daily reading record (this may even be as little as 10 minutes)
- **Help them** when they're stuck. We want all children to be successful and getting stuck for too long on a tricky word can really put them off. If they can't sound it out, break it into syllables or find a root word to help them then **read it for them**. (We can show you how to do this at one of our reading workshops.)
- **Talk about what a new word might mean:** children will always come across new vocabulary. Chat to see if there are any clues in the text to help you to understand what the new word means, if not look it up in a dictionary or online.
- **Read to them** and try incorporate bedtime routines around a story, you can always read part of their book to them. We want you to enjoy this too!

✂

#### **PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO SCHOOL BY 25<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER**

We are also going help your children to choose books we think they might enjoy and invest in our school library. The PTA have agreed that this can be a focus for fundraising. Help us to decide what kind of books that we should buy by telling us which kinds of stories your child likes to read.

Has your child got any favourite authors?

Have they got any favourite genres- adventure, funny, animal, detective, historical, fantasy, mystery, scary stories.....?

What kind of stories would you like to see them read? What were your favourite types of stories?