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## **Independent Reading Letter**

Dear Parent/Carer

Reading is an important focus every year, and we would like the children to enjoy a wide variety of books. Your child has progressed beyond the Reading Scheme and is able to choose their own books, so hopefully this letter will help you support them.

### **Books**

Your child will bring home up to 2 books each week. They will need to choose suitable books, with adult support and direction, and sometimes also learn to change a book that they don't like. The key to all this is variety. There is nothing wrong with sometimes choosing 'easier' books to enjoy, provided this is part of a wide selection over the year, and we would expect them also to pick books that challenge them. While some books can be read in one week, there will be many times when the books are not finished, so please keep them longer.

### **Reading Record**

The Reading Record is our way of keeping in constant contact with you. There is an expectation that the children now fill in the Reading record themselves, and that you check and sign it. Please sign it every week and let us know both the successes, and problems your child has. Please still let us know how your child is dealing with the individual words, but also if they understand the story, and can explain things and answer questions. Their grasp of meaning is now even more important, and constant questioning about the plot of the story is crucial. Unlike the Reading Scheme books, they will often be faced with a much longer texts, so there will be many times when the books are not finished especially if they are hundreds of pages long, so please let the school know that you would like them for longer.

### **Book Changing**

The books will be changed when they are finished. There will be class routines to do this in a structured way.

### **Reading Stories**

*The following is advice for parents drawn together by the Dfe in January 2022 in a document called The Reading Framework. It sets out how you can read with your child.*

#### *Introduction*

*Your child will bring home different books. One book is for your child to read to you. It has been carefully chosen so that they can work out all the words. The other book may have words your child may not be able to read yet. It is for you to read with your child and talk about together. The second book may be another story book or an information book.*

#### *How to read a story to your child*

*If you can find the time beforehand, read the read-aloud book to yourself first, so you can think about how you're going to read it to your child.*

*On the first reading:*

- *Make reading aloud feel like a treat. Make it a special quiet time and cuddle up so you can both see the book.*
- *Show curiosity about what you're going to read: 'This book looks interesting. It's about an angry child. I wonder how angry he gets...'*
- *Read through the whole story the first time without stopping too much. Let the story weave its own magic.*
- *Read with enjoyment. If you're not enjoying it, your child won't.*

*Read favourite stories over and over again.*

*On later readings:*

- *Let your child pause, think about and comment on the pictures.*
- *If you think your child did not understand something, try to explain: 'Oh! I think what's happening here is that...'*
- *Chat about the story and pictures: 'I wonder why she did that?'; 'Oh no, I hope she's not going to...'; 'I wouldn't have done that, would you?'*
- *Link the stories to your own family experiences: 'This reminds me of when ...'*
- *Link stories to others that your child knows: 'Ah! Do you remember the dragon in ....? Do you remember what happened to him?'*
- *Encourage your child to join in with the bits they know.*
- *Avoid asking questions to test what your child remembers.*
- *Avoid telling children that reading stories is good for them.*

Hopefully this guidance will be of some help.