



## Reading information for parents/carers Year 1/2

At Terrington St Clement Community School we recognise and value the importance of our learners becoming confident, successful, independent readers. We are keen to work together with you in supporting your child on their journey towards achieving this.

For any age group, even if interests and abilities vary, it is crucial to establish a love of books and get learners to ask questions, come up with their own answers and most importantly have fun with reading.

It is our role to get books right at this age, to build literacy foundations and keep children engaged with reading. Books should be all about fun – and definitely not about being obliged to read.

Whether your child is reading books alone or you are reading together with them, no matter. And on that note, having story time at home each day and making it a regular habit is one of the best things you can do for your child. It helps cultivate active listening skills, gives them a head start on language skills, reduces screen time and makes them much more likely to pick up the habit of reading.

There is considerable evidence to show the link between reading regularly with a child and success in their future academic achievements, mental wellbeing and in the wider world as a whole. Reading is an important life skill.

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher if you have any questions or would like to discuss things further.

*'I'm wondering what to read next...'*  
*Matilda, Roald Dahl*

## Reading At School



Your child will be reading every day at school to practice, develop and apply their reading skills through a range of activities and in different subjects eg. maths, science, history, PE.

It is important to acknowledge that all our learners will be at different stages of working towards becoming a confident, successful, independent reader. Some learners at this stage in school life are not yet ready to read unaided; others are reading fluently and independently. But in either case, generally it's the books with child-friendly topics, imaginative characters and captivating illustrations that fit the bill best. They are the books that open up a whole new world to the learner and whet appetites to turn more pages and open more books - the ultimate goal.

Together with this booklet, we will provide guidance, helpful tips, age-appropriate recommended readers and updates to support you with reading at home.

### Bug Club

Your child will be allocated online books for home reading and teachers will be able to assess their progress with reading comprehension as they complete the activities linked to the texts read. Log-in details will be provided at the start of Sept.

### Bookmarks

Each week your child will bring home a reading bookmark. It will be part of the book bundle. This will be how you share reading you do with your child at home with school. On the bookmark there will be links to reading skills, HFW and tricky words and phonics we are practising in school. By working together to support your child's reading, we maximise the opportunities for success in achieving this.

## Reading At Home



Ideally, please try to engage in reading with your child every day. Make the most of everyday reading activities such as reading road signs, cereal packets, swimming/bus timetables, shop opening times, leaflets, comics. These are all valuable opportunities to read and the more they do this the wider range of words they will be able to or attempt to read. Reading should be viewed as something that happens all the time and this enables learners to practice, develop, apply, gain confidence and eventually embed their reading skills.

Each week, we will provide your child with some reading books to share at home eg. 1 decodable reading book, 1 library book and when they are ready a short chapter book.

How to make the most of the book bundle -

1. **2 x Phonics Phase books** - these books are closely matched to the learner's ability and enable them to develop a sense of success as a reader. The significant fact of these books is that they need to be practised 4x over the course of the week in order to develop fluency and confidence to read independently as much as the text as possible on sight.
2. **1 x library book** - the purpose of these books is to widen your child's reading experiences and promote reading for pleasure. It also exposes learners to 'real books' and the rich language these have to offer. Feel free to read the text to your child on the first read. Again, re-reading texts enables your child to develop confidence to read texts for themselves. The more you model and share the same text, the more they will begin to do this for themselves and develop the self-confidence and self-awareness of seeing themselves as a reader .

3. **1 x short chapter text** (when ready) **or a 50 Recommend Reading book** - short chapter books help learners develop and practice building fluency and stamina needed to become a free independent reader. These books should be read over several sittings. Before starting reading, recap what has happened so far in the story, make links and predict what might happen next. Lots of great opportunities to develop and strength stamina needed to become a successful, confident, independent reader.
4. **Always make time for reading.** Ensure there is lots of discussion and ask questions when you are reading together. **Most importantly, it should be enjoyable.**

For example:

- What do you see on this page?
- How do you think the characters feel?
- What do you think is going to happen next?

When you have finished, talk about how your child feels about the book:

- What did they like?
- What didn't they like?
- What can they remember about what happened?
- Who was their favourite character? Why?
- Link the story to their own experiences. Can they remember when they did something similar?

5. **Bug Club online reading** - these texts are closely matched to reading ability and comprehension skills. Within the texts there are comprehension activities for your child to complete as they read. This resource enables class teachers to release more texts for reading at home and also monitor and track progress with comprehension skills.

*'Children are made readers on the laps of their parents'* Emilie Buchwald