

## Reading - information for parents/carers

Y3/4 Lower Key Stage 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.

Reading is a core skill for our learners to learn if they are to succeed academically. It's a life skill and one that is always developing.

Whether your child is reading books alone or you are reading together with them, no matter. And on that note, having reading 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 many experiences books can provide, 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 in Y3/4



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 reads and updates to support you with reading at home.

### Reading Diaries

These enable us to keep track of the books your child has read at home and school and allows your child to provide a written response to their reading. These will remain at school and staff will use these with your child recording in them regularly each week to develop their understanding and thinking about what they are reading.

### 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 focus reading skills we are practising in school.

By working together to support your child's reading, we maximise the opportunities for success in achieving this.

Thank you for your continued support.

## Reading At Home



Ideally, please try to engage in reading with your child every day. 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 to become fluent, confident and independent readers. It is important that learners practice reading aloud to an audience to develop their fluency, confidence and ability to do this skill.

At the start of each week, we will provide your child with a **book bundle**. Within this bundle, there will be a selection of books for your child to share at home eg. a chapter book of their own choice, Whole Class Reader (WCR) text and a banded reading book. Chapter books will be read over several weeks. Any finished texts within the book bundles will be changed on a Monday as and when needed.

### How to make the most of the book bundle -

1. **Banded books** - the bands expose the readers to a breadth and choice of texts making reading more independent and enjoyable. These books are closely matched to the learner's ability and enable them to develop a sense of success as a reader. They should be read over a couple of sittings during the week. Before reading, recap what has happened so far. These books will be changed on Mondays.

2. **Whole Class Reader (WCR)** - this is the text the class is reading together and your child will be loaned a copy of this text for the term. Learners will be expected to read a set number of pages each week ready for their WCR lessons the following week, the pages set each week will be shared via the reading bookmark. The WCR will be sent home weekly and must be returned to school on Mondays ready for use in lessons at the start of the week.

3. **1 x chapter text** of choice - these texts will be chosen from class book corners where your child will choose an appropriately challenged text from the selection available. 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 and we are aiming for these to be finished within a half

term. Before reading, encourage your child to summarise 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.

The selection of book corner texts will be changed termly. Your child will change their text on Mondays as and when appropriate.

4. **Bug Club online reading** - these provide independent comprehension practice and access to even more texts and titles. Like the banded books the texts your child meets, they closely match the texts to reading ability and comprehension skills. Class teachers will monitor the progress with these.

Your child will be encouraged to develop their thinking and understanding when reading using their bookmark. On here they will record the following:

- Expand their vocabulary choices using the texts they are reading by identifying and recording new words and their definitions.
- Think of a text related question for the WCR to share in lessons the following week.
- Identify the main ideas of their reading and summarise in 1 or 2 sentences.

**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.**

*'There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all.'*

*Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis*