



Reaching for the Stars!
Canterbury Road, Davyhulme, Manchester, M41 0RX
Tel 0161 748 3392

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Dear Parents and Carers,

New Reading Scheme in Key Stage 2

Reading is an important part of the Curriculum and helps children access learning in all subjects. As well as this, research also suggests that reading helps to improve the mental well-being of children. Put simply, children who read a lot tend to be happier! It has also been proven that children who are fluent readers tend to do better in their adult lives. It is therefore vital that your child finds learning to read and write a rewarding and successful experience.

We have recently purchased a new reading scheme that we are confident will interest, motivate and encourage children to read more often, especially at home. The reading scheme is 'The Oxford Reading Tree' and includes a wide variety of high quality fiction and non-fiction texts. The new reading scheme does not follow the previous Book Band system, but uses **Oxford Levels**. Your child's teacher will assess the appropriate Oxford Level for your child to ensure that they are reading age-appropriate books, with the right level of support or challenge.

With the introduction of a new reading scheme, it is important to be aware that children progress at different rates and that some children who are less fluent readers may be reading texts from a previous year group. In such cases, it is essential that these pupils read at home with an adult on a daily basis. **It is also important to be aware that progressing through the reading levels is not a race and that reading is not always about acquiring new skills and moving 'up'; depth and breadth of understanding and the ability to confidently apply knowledge and skills to a range of texts at an appropriate level of challenge is very important.**

With the introduction of the new reading scheme, we shall be encouraging pupils to read at home on a regular basis, and rewarding this with stickers and prizes. Every pupil has been given a reading reward bookmark which is inside their planner. Teachers will look inside the planner once a week to monitor your child's reading. If your child has read aloud at home at least 3 times that week, a sticker will be placed on one of the circles on the bookmark. Therefore, please date and record in your child's planner every time they read to you. On completion of a row, they will receive a large reading sticker. When a child has finished their bookmark, they will receive a certificate during Good Work Assembly. Please note, we are interested in hearing about any of the reading your child is doing with you at home in their planner. Comments on their reading help to give us a fuller picture of your child's progress.

Important information for KS2 parents of fluent readers:

Even when your child has achieved a good level of fluency, they still benefit from being listened to by you. It helps you to see whether they fully understand what they are reading, for example taking note of the punctuation and pronouncing words correctly. Good readers often skip over difficult words because they can still get a sense of what they are reading. Reading aloud encourages them to tackle more difficult vocabulary and extend their word power. It is also a great time to discuss what they think about their reading and develop their opinions. It is also important that your child has access to an inspiring and varied range of books, and does not only read the books they take home from school. We very much hope that the new reading scheme, together with the launch of a new reading incentive scheme will help to promote the importance of reading and, more importantly, a life-long love of books for your child.

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”
Dr. Seuss, I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!

Many thanks for your continued support.

Ms. K. Brookes (Deputy Head teacher).