

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Reading at Home: Small Habits, Big Impact**

We want every child at our school to develop a lifelong love of reading, and with your help, that journey starts now.

Just 10 minutes of reading each day can make a world of difference. It might not seem like much, but the long-term impact is profound. Ten minutes a day exposes children to over 600,000 words per year.

For children who may be finding reading tricky, those extra ten minutes can be life-changing. A child in the 30th percentile typically reads around 106,000 words annually; adding ten more minutes boosts that figure to over 700,000—a staggering 556% increase. That's not just numbers—that's vocabulary, understanding, confidence, and opportunity.

Reading also strengthens the parent-child bond, lighting up the brain in areas that support language, memory, focus, and emotional development. And the benefits go far beyond the classroom:

- Children who enjoy reading score higher on standardised assessments (average score 109.1 vs. 102.7)
- Regular reading reduces stress, builds empathy, and supports mental wellbeing—44% of frequent readers report improved mental health.
- It promotes social awareness and better relationships with others

Sadly, the cost of not reading is steep:

- 25% of young offenders have a reading age of seven or below
- 57% of adult prisoners have literacy levels below what's expected of an 11-year-old
- A lack of reading is linked to lower language skills, reduced motivation, and widening academic gaps

We know that early support makes the greatest difference. That's why we're asking for your help in fostering this daily habit at home.

### **Our School's Reading Expectation**

To help build this routine, we ask that every child:

- Reads with an adult at home at least four times per week
- Has their Yellow Reading Record signed each time

This commitment ensures we can work in partnership to track and celebrate each child's progress.

If you'd like ideas for books, questions to ask during reading time, or support with choosing books, please speak to your child's teacher—we're always happy to help.

Thank you, as always, for your time and support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs McKerrrow (Early Reading Lead) & Miss Dando (Reading Lead)

