

19<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Dear Parents

We have decided on a new approach to the teaching of reading where the emphasis will move from 'small group guided reading' to 'whole class reading'. This is to promote a love of reading and to support the children and prepare them effectively for the standards of the National Tests at the end of Year 2 and Year 6.

For these lessons the texts will be carefully chosen by teachers to provide appropriate challenge that builds on pupils' existing knowledge and understanding. The texts are used together with a high level of interaction between teachers and pupils to develop children's reading skills whilst also working on their ability to understand what is written. All children will read the same high quality text regardless of their ability and will be supported to answer a series of both verbal and written answers to planned questions.

At the end of each lesson a 'Big Question' will be set which each child will write an answer to in their Reading book. These books will be seen by the teacher but will not always be given detailed marking as they are meant to be a place where children can explore answers, give their ideas and opinions and use their imagination to make predictions etc. As such, often there will not be a 'correct' answer to these questions but children will be given verbal feedback on how to improve or extend their answers.

During whole class reading, the class teacher will not be listening to individual children read and therefore there will not be a stamp or comment in the home school book. These stamps or comments will now only be used when a child is reading on a 1:1 basis with an adult at another time. During these 1:1 reading times, children will continue to select texts from our colour banded books which should be books that they are able to read fairly fluently and have a good understanding of. These will also be the books that they continue to bring home for shared reading.

To continue to encourage a love of reading amongst pupils our children will continue to visit our school library on a weekly basis to select a book of their choice to read and bring home. This is in addition to their colour banded reading book.

**It is our expectation that children will spend more, rather than less, time reading each week.**

### **How does whole class reading work?**

In the Foundation Stage and Year 1, teachers will make use of big books and texts on the Interactive White Board as part of their reading sessions.

From Year 2 to Year 6, considerably more time is being given to whole class reading sessions (although there will still be some opportunities for 1:1 reading and small group sessions). Teachers may use their professional judgement to identify children requiring basic skill development who would therefore benefit from individual reading to a teacher, LSA or parent helper. In addition there will be other identified times where teachers will listen to children read individually. Children in years 2 and 6 will also be given opportunities to read independently and to complete practise papers in preparation for end of the Key Stage SATs.

Individual pupils will be called upon to read aloud to the class, whilst teachers will model effective reading also.

Yours sincerely,

K. Taylor  
English Subject Leader