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Principal: Miss I McKane
Vice-Principal: Mr P. Morrow

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Dear Parent / Carer

Reading

Thank you all for your continued vigilance and for the work you have been doing with your children at home so far this term. We are delighted with the way in which the majority of families have been able use Seesaw to submit homework and appreciate your support with staggered home times etc. which we fully appreciate can be inconvenient at times.

Find attached a 'Top **Tips for Reading at Home**' leaflet with some suggestions. This may help to make reading more meaningful and encourage understanding. Please ensure that your child is completing their reading homework every evening. Reading is one of the most important skills our children learn and develop in school and therefore regular practice is very important.

In addition to the contribution reading makes to your child's progress across the curriculum, reading can offer comfort, relaxation, and fun. Reading together encourages communication, and develops confidence in areas such as writing, listening and speaking. These essential skills allow us to achieve success, not only in the classroom, but in life beyond school.

As a school we have invested in Accelerated Reading and additional access to online reading materials through Myon and Bug Club. These are seen as valuable platforms to extend the range of materials available to our pupils. To get the best value for money it is essential that pupils log in and engage with texts allocated by teachers as well as books which are sent home. Teachers monitor work done online. Key Stage 2 are currently using Bug Club with most children, please ensure that your child completes the comprehension questions throughout the stories which can be accessed by clicking on the little 'bugs'.

Please let us know if, for any reason, you are unable to access online materials and teachers can look for alternatives.

Lending IT Equipment.

The Education Authority have made ICT equipment available to 'vulnerable groups', who do not have laptops to access online learning. If your family qualify for free school meals, or are in any other way in need, please email me **in confidence** and we can try to get hardware for you.

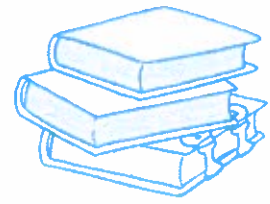
Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'I. McKane'.

I. McKane
Principal

Top Tips

For Reading with Your Child at Home



As we all know, there is a lot more to reading than just reading! Here are some tips to help during reading sessions with your child at home.

- What is happening? Talk about what is happening in the pictures before you read the text. What can you see?
- Discuss the meaning of words. Use a dictionary to get your child used to exploring words for themselves.
- Discuss alternative words. For example, 'big'. Ask your child to think of another word that means the same, e.g. 'huge' (use a thesaurus).
- Make predictions. What do you think will happen next? What makes you think that?
- Start at the end of the book. What do you think has happened before this point? Why do you think that?
- Discuss feelings. How do you think the characters are feeling? What has made them feel this way?
- Where is the story set? Have you read another story with the same setting? For example, 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen and 'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson are both set in the woods.
- Discuss the problem in the story. What has happened? What went wrong?
- Discuss the resolution. How was the problem solved? Is there another way it could have been resolved?
- Fact or fiction? Is this book a story book or a non-fiction book? How do you know?
- What have you learnt? What do you know now that you didn't know before reading the book?

During Reading

Encourage children to use expression when reading, especially for the voices of different characters.

Discuss the punctuation on the page, for example, exclamation marks. Ask: what are these for? What should you do when you see an exclamation mark?

You do not always have to read the entire book every night. Focus on 2 pages and talk about the characters, setting, and plot in a lot of detail. You might want to take it in turns to read so your child can hear how you read.