



Tuesday 16th September 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Reading at home with your child

At Orchard Lea Junior School, we know how important it is for teachers and parents to work together to give children the best start. Reading together at home is an important way in which you can help your child. As you share books, you are helping improve your child's reading skills and show them how important and enjoyable reading is.

Reading to and with your child, every evening for at least ten minutes can make a dramatic difference to a child's achievement within school. A report from the Oxford University Press highlighted the importance of parents reading with their children. 'Children who read outside of class are 13 times more likely to read above the expected level for their age'. As well as academic attainment, instilling a love of reading has many lifelong benefits. Research by The Reading Agency has found that reading for pleasure can result in increased empathy, improved relationships, reduction in the symptoms of stress, depression and dementia and improved wellbeing. In addition to the health benefits, reading for pleasure has social benefits and can improve our sense of connectedness to the wider community. Reading increases our understanding of our own identity, improves empathy and gives us an insight into the world.

Reading homework

For homework this year, we are focusing on reading. Each week, **your child is expected to read at least five times for a minimum of ten minutes each time, and record this in their Reading Record.** Ideally, they should read aloud to or with an adult. **We ask that parents/other adults date and make a comment and/or sign the reading record each week** to show that their child(ren) have read aloud. Comments on their reading help to give us a fuller picture of your child's progress. Teachers will be looking for a signature each week when Reading Records are handed in.

Celebrating reading

Due to its success last year, we will be continuing the Reading Raffle. For every entry in their reading record, the children will be awarded a raffle ticket. Each half term there will be a raffle and a child from each year group will win a brand new book. Alongside the raffle, each week the percentage of children who have read in each class will be calculated and those with the highest percentage will be celebrated in assembly.

Supporting 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, e.g. 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 vocabulary that is more difficult and extend their word power. It is also a great time to discuss what they think about their reading and develop their opinions.

Top tips for reading at home with your child

- Try to build this into your daily routine.
- Have a quiet, comfortable space your child (and you) can read in.
- Read with your child and read in front of your child.
- Remember, both reading and hearing texts read aloud are important.
- It is 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. They can enjoy texts that are more complex by listening to audiobooks or by listening to you read.

Ways to read at home

- I read, You read (adult and child reading different books alongside each other)
- Seesaw reading (turn taking from the same book)
- Echo reading (Adult reads aloud followed by child reading same passage aloud after to build confidence and model expression and intonation)
- Choral reading (reading out loud together)
- Adult and child read the same book separately and come together to discuss (Book Club style)

Before reading

If it is the first time your child has read the book, look at the cover and title with them to predict what they think the book might be about. Make links to other books read with similar themes, the same characters and/or similar authors/illustrators. Give them time to flick through the book and read the blurb.

During reading

- Encourage children to track the words with their finger or use a reading ruler.
- Help the children to decode (read) the words and ask them about the meaning of more challenging words.
- Ask children about the content of what they have read – who, what, where, when, why, how?

After reading

Discuss with them what they have read – about the character, about the plot, about the important parts of the story, about what they have learnt from the information, about their feelings as they read the story etc. For example:

- Which part of the story did you like best? Why?
- What do you think will happen next?
- Would you like X as a friend? Why?
- What do you think X should have done when..?
- How do you think the story will end?

Encourage them to think about the way the book has been written; the print, the layout and the illustrations.

Throughout the year, we will be hosting a variety of reading events so keep an eye out for them.

Thank you in advance for your continued support.
Happy Reading!

Mrs E Norton
English Lead

Useful websites

Kate Greenaway Medal and Carnegie Medal -

<http://www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/home/index.php>

CBCA – Children’s Book Council of Australia http://cbca.org.au/Shortlist_2011.htm has some good recommendations under short lists and winners.

Book Trust – amazing site, book lists under categories, e.g. authors from different cultures, graphic novels, books about themes, e.g. love, environment, books featuring characters with disabilities, books for children with autism etc.

<http://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-andreading/children/booklists/>

‘Books We Like’ <http://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-andreading/children/books-we-like/>

‘Best Book Guide’ <http://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-andreading/children/best-book-guide/>

<https://www.readingrockets.org/article/how-read-e-book-your-child>