

North Park Primary School

Home-School Reading Guidelines – KS2

At North Park Primary School we value the support of parents in enabling children to become confident, fluent readers who read for pleasure and enjoyment. Working together in partnership will allow your child to reach their full potential in reading – which is the key to so much more! Our approach to selecting and changing home reading books in KS2 is slightly different to KS1.

We hope these guidelines clearly explain how we teach reading and how you can support your child's reading at home.

Home Reading

Organisation

All KS2 children have their reading ability assessed formally three times a year using a recognised reading assessment. The reading assessment addresses both word recognition and comprehension skills. This gives a reading age which together with ongoing teacher assessment and professional judgement determines the home reading level for the child.

Our home-reading scheme is made up of high quality books and is regularly updated with new releases. In KS2 it is organised into reading ages, in order to ensure each child is reading at a level most suitable for them, both in terms of word recognition and comprehension. We use Accelerated Reader so each time a child completes a book they take a short online quiz that tests understanding and vocabulary. If children pass the test they accrue points and the word count of the book is added to the child's ongoing word count. The completion of the quiz gives us vital information about a child's understanding of the book and encourages them to become more reflective readers.

Changing books

Children are given the opportunity to change their book every day if needed although in KS2 children are generally reading books for longer periods as the texts become more challenging. They will also have access to the school library, from which they can borrow one book. This means they should always have access to at least 2 books each week if required.

Expectations

The support you provide in this partnership is of huge value and will have a significant impact on the progress your child can make as well as their confidence and self-esteem. We would like children to read out loud as often as possible in order to develop their fluency, intonation and expression. It is therefore our expectation that all pupils will read their school book at home to an adult at least 3 times a week. This should be recorded in their reading record diary, in addition any free reading which the child has completed may be included. Please also record anything which you feel is important and wish to share with the class teacher about your child's reading, but also remember that you can arrange to see the teacher if appropriate. Teachers will check and sign reading diaries weekly to ensure that

homework has been completed and any unsigned diaries will be classed as homework not being completed. Reading books and diaries must be in school every day.

It is important to stress that racing through the reading levels without regard for comprehension and understanding of the content is not the most effective approach to reading! Teachers check quiz accuracy weekly and any children struggling with understanding will be identified. We encourage parents to take time to discuss the text and help pupils read unfamiliar words. This gives a much clearer understanding of the meaning of a whole text. It is also useful to have at home a dictionary and thesaurus which the child can access to explore unfamiliar and/or unknown words.

In weekly celebration assembly each class announces a reader of the week as well as the top word count and quiz accuracy winner for each class. Each half term the children with the highest word count and quiz accuracy will be rewarded with a trip to a bookstore to choose their own book prize. Additionally we have termly reading awards.

Guided Reading and Class based reading

As well as reading being an integral part of the daily Literacy lesson, pupils in KS2 take part in a daily dedicated Guided Reading sessions each week with a teaching assistant or their class teacher. These last for approximately 25 minutes and during the session pupils will partake in a variety of reading activities including reading out loud from a class book. Together with reading in other subjects, this means that each child will be heard to read by the class teacher every week.

We have a wide range of high quality books for Guided Reading: both Fiction and Non-Fiction books. Often, the pupils love these books so much that it is a favourite part of the school day for many of them.

Reading and Special Educational Needs

In all KS2 classes, any child with a SEND Support Plan which has specific targets for reading will be heard to read by the class teacher or teaching assistant more regularly and often from their home-reading book.

If you would like to discuss the contents of a child's Pupil Support Plan then please contact your child's class teacher or the SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator – Mrs Wood).

The value placed on a 'LOVE of READING' at school is a priority and it is a key part of the ethos of North Park Primary School. To support this, we hold events such as bedtime story sessions, weekly story assemblies, Book Fairs, visiting authors, Poetry Week and Book Day. We highly recommend that children become members of the local library to allow them access to a wealth of books as good reading habits can be expensive.