

# STEDHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher  
Mr Malcolm Meaby

7 October 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are pleased and excited to share with you our new Reading Record, which will be coming home with your child today. Reading is very important as it opens up a world of learning. Research suggests that children make greater progress in all subjects once they have become a fluent reader.

As you know, we have spent an enormous amount of time and energy promoting a love of reading. The one missing link, for some children, remains whether they have enough of a reading habit to get into reading: to take pleasure in reading a book from cover to cover. Without your support with this, our efforts in school are not as effective.

We hope that this new Reading Record, the guidance inside and the incentives, will make a positive impact on your child's reading habits.

## Why reading is important?

You will know from previous parent's evenings and reading workshops, our aim is to develop a passion for reading. Whilst it is always important for us to ensure that children can read, it is also important to ensure that children **do** read. Reading should be fun! With the right choice of books and consistent support, even reluctant readers can learn to find the magic inside a book.

We need to help children to see reading as an integral part of learning for life and not just something which is done either at 'reading time' or at home.

Our solution is to expect regular reading from all children, to form a daily habit. At school, we ensure that all children have daily 'reading time' and the opportunity to hear teachers' reading regularly from a rich topic-related text.

## Essential information regarding the Reading Record

- *Top tips for reading at home* – please read these as they may inspire you to improve your reading habits
- *Reading Rockets incentive scheme* – these are fun Reading Rocket certificates that children can earn each time they achieve 20 reads at home with an adult.
- *Celebration assembly*: Each Friday we present 'Star Awards' and 'Reading Rockets' in our celebration assembly. The child is presented their 'Reading Rocket' in front of the entire school and is also awarded 10 house points for their efforts!
- *Comment ideas* – suggestions on how to make effective comments in the Reading Record

## How will the Reading Record be used?

We will use the Reading Records to monitor your child's reading. They will record all reading both at school and at home. Entries are very easy, as they just require a date, book title/page number and any comments.



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- **Early Readers (Rabbits class)** – Bug Club books are short but very important as they reinforce essential phonics. The book is selected to support the phonics lessons from the previous week. It is, therefore, really important to keep up with each new book that goes home every week. To get the most from the book, we ask that it is read at least twice and questions are asked to gauge your child's understanding (please see the inside back cover of the book for helpful questions).

There are a wealth of further phonics books (ebooks) which can be found on the Phonics Bug Club website using your personal log in details. Your phonic bug club login details:.....

- **Fluent readers in Foxes class (Year 5 & 6)** – Pupils in Foxes class can complete their own entries but we ask for an adult to sign and date the entry. We stress however, that it is still important for adults to listen to their children regularly and add entries in the Reading Record whenever possible.

Teachers or TA's will check the Reading Records weekly and will add supportive comments.

### **Supporting your child with reading at home**

Although your child will be taught to read at school, you can have a huge impact on their reading journey by continuing their practice at home.

### **Encourage your child to read as often as possible**

We'd like children to read five times a week for at least 15 minutes per day.

Building this into your daily routine makes it a lot easier to sustain. It's important to make the environment conducive to concentration so choose a time of day which you can dedicate to reading, turn off all screens and phones and find somewhere comfortable they can enjoy the time. It's also valuable to listen to your child read aloud as it gives them a chance to practice reading with understanding and expression.

### **Reading to your child**

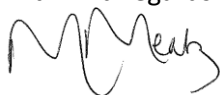
Your child gains so much from hearing you read a story to them, no matter how old they are. Listening to stories provides children with an understanding of how stories are structured, it develops vocabulary, and it helps provide a context for meaning. Try to use different voices for different characters and use your tone of voice to add emotion such as excitement or fear. Older children love listening to stories as much as younger ones – one way of doing this is to share and take turns at reading a page or a chapter.

### **Ask questions to support your child's understanding**

When you ask questions during story time, it really helps children learn to be active readers and to think critically. By getting your child thinking and discussing a text, it makes story time a richer experience.

We hope you and your child enjoy reading together at home. We look forward to celebrating your child's reading efforts by awarding Reading Rockets certificates at our celebration assembly. Thank you for your continued support.

With kind regards



Malcolm Meaby  
Head Teacher