

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

## **Supporting 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. Your support can have a huge impact on your child's confidence and love of reading. Studies show that children who love reading and read, or are read to, often do better in school.

This year, we have decided to NOT have a reading record in order to keep track of reading at home. You will not be asked to give a comment or sign proving that your child has read that night and they will not be asked to read for a specified number of minutes.

This does NOT mean that children are not expected to read outside of school. **At The Greetland Academy we want to ensure that every child becomes a lifelong reader. Throughout the year, we will be working to build a culture of reading and a community of readers.** We will be engaging in conversations about books and reading; having conversations about our reading habits gives us a much greater chance to help our pupils develop more meaningful and long lasting love of books.

Your child will be bringing home two types of books; their reading practice book & their library book/sharing book.

### **The Reading Practice Book**

This book has been carefully matched to your child's current reading level and your child should be able to read this fluently and independently. This book has already been read a number of times in school so don't worry if this book seems too easy for them. Children develop automaticity through re-reading books they have already read and the aim of the reading practice book is to develop reading fluency and confidence. Listen to them read the book and remember to give your child lots of praise – celebrate their success! If they can't read a word, just read it to them. After they have finished, talk about the book together.

### **The Library/Sharing Book**

Your child may bring home a book which they cannot read on their own. This book is for you both to read and enjoy together. Discuss the pictures, enjoy the story, predict what might happen next, use different voices for the characters, explore the facts in a non-fiction book. The main thing is that you have fun! To encourage your child to become a lifelong reader, it is important to make time to read for pleasure. The sharing book is a book they have chosen for you to enjoy together.



*Research tells us that sharing books together have a long lasting effect on your child's language development, comprehension and vocabulary. Most importantly, this time helps your child grow a love of reading and a love of reading is the biggest indicator of future academic*



Here are some ideas to help ensure your child is reading at home;

**Create a sacred time when everyone in the house is reading.**

When everyone in the house is reading, children will be more likely to WANT to read. I know that we are all incredibly busy, but imagine how powerful even 15 minutes of everyone in the house reading could be!

**Build reading into your child's daily routine**

Find a regular time for reading in your child's day, so that they can begin to expect it as part of their routine. This can be any time of day. Some children enjoy reading before bed, but others can just be too exhausted at night. It might be better for some children to read just after dinner, or in the morning after breakfast, when they have more energy.

**Take breaks while reading.**

Your child doesn't have to read an entire book in one go! Any time spent sharing or talking about a book is beneficial, even if it's just a couple of minutes at a time.

**Ask your child about the books they are reading.**

The more children talk about the books they are reading, the more they will want to keep reading! Knowing that there are people at home who are interested in what they are reading and what they have to say about that reading, can sometimes be the push that children need to keep on reading. Even if a child is not enjoying a particular book, you can learn a lot about a person as a reader, and they can learn a lot about themselves, by discussing what it is they do not like.

**Encourage your child to follow their interests**

Following their interests is the best way to keep them engaged and make reading fun, which will make them more likely to want to read more widely going forward. Let them read the same book, or same genre of reading material (such as football magazines!), over and over again. Repetition will help children with fluency and language structure.

**Use technology together**

At times, using mobile phones, tablets, computers, laptops and other devices to engage your child in reading and activities that can help them build their vocabulary can be really beneficial. This can include a multitude of activities, such as:

- Telling a story using pictures on your phone
- Video calling friends and relatives to read too or engage in conversation about books
- Using apps to read e-books or listen to audiobooks

For book recommendations or author videos click on the link below

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/everybody-read/section/book-recommendations/all-primary-ages/>

**At any time, if you have concerns about your child's reading, please contact your class teacher who will be happy to discuss this further. Opening those conversations will allow us to problem solve and make adjustments to support reading at home.**

Kindest Regards,  
Mrs Ashton  
Vice Principal



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