

Reading - information for parents/carers

Y5/6 Upper Key Stage 2



At Terrington St Clement Community School we recognise and value the importance of our learners becoming confident, successful, independent readers. We are keen to work together with you in supporting your child on their journey towards achieving this.

For any age group, even if interests and abilities vary, it is crucial to establish a love of books and get learners to ask questions, come up with their own answers and most importantly have fun with reading.

It is our role to get books right at this age, to build literacy foundations and keep children engaged with reading. Books should be all about fun – and definitely not about being obliged to read.

Whether your child is reading books alone or you are reading together with them, no matter. And on that note, having reading role models at home and making it a regular habit is one of the best things you can do for your child. It helps cultivate many experiences books can provide, gives them a head start on language skills, reduces screen time and makes them much more likely to pick up the habit of reading.

There is considerable evidence to show the link between reading regularly with a child and success in their future academic achievements, mental wellbeing and in the wider world as a whole. Reading is an important life skill.

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher if you have any questions or would like to discuss things further.

'I'm wondering what to read next...'
Roald Dahl

Matilda,

Reading At School in Y5/6



Your child will be reading every day at school to practice, develop and apply their reading skills through a range of activities and in different subjects eg. maths, science, history, PE.

It is important to acknowledge that all our learners will be at different stages of working towards becoming a confident, successful, independent reader. All reading is positive. We want our learners to develop a wide repertoire of reading. Books open up a whole new world to the learner and whet appetites to turn more pages and open more books - the ultimate goal.

Together with this booklet, we will provide guidance, helpful tips, age-appropriate recommended reads and updates to support you with reading at home.

Reading Diaries

These enable us to keep track of the books your child has read at home and school and allows your child to provide a written response to their reading. These will remain at school and staff will use these with your child recording in them regularly each week to develop their understanding and thinking about what they are reading.

Bookmarks

Each week, your child will bring home a bookmark. It will be part of the book bundle of reading sent home weekly. This will be how reading you do with your child at home is shared with school in the current situation. On the bookmark there will be links to focus reading skills.

Always make time for reading. Ensure there is lots of discussion and ask questions when you are reading together. **Most importantly, it should be enjoyable.** By working together to support your child's reading, we maximise the opportunities for success in achieving this.

Thank you for your continued support.

Reading At Home



Ideally, please try to engage in reading with your child every day. It is important at this age that learners continue to practice reading aloud to an audience to develop their fluency, confidence and ability to do this skill. Reading should be viewed as something that happens all the time and as an important life skill. This practice enables learners to develop, apply, gain confidence and eventually embed their reading skills to become fluent, confident and independent readers.

At the start of term, we will provide your child with a **book bundle**. Within this bundle, there will be a selection of books for your child to share at home eg. a chapter book of their own choice, Whole Class Reader text and a non-fiction text. These book bundles will be changed on a Monday as and when needed.

How to make the most of the book bundle -

1. **1 x chapter text** of choice - These texts will be chosen from class book corners where your child will choose an appropriately challenged text from the selection available. Chapter books help learners develop and practice building fluency and stamina needed to become a confident, fluent, independent reader. These books should be read over several sittings and aim to be completed within a half term. Before reading, encourage your child to summarise what has happened so far in the story, make links and predict what might happen next. Lots of great opportunities to develop and strength stamina needed to become a successful, confident, independent reader.

The selection of book corner texts will be changed termly. Your child will change their text on Mondays as and when appropriate.

2. **Whole Class Reader (WCR)** - this is the text the class is reading together and your child will be loaned a copy of this text for the term. Learners will be expected to read a set number of pages each week ready for their WCR lessons the following week. This text will be sent home weekly once the home reading has been set and must be returned to school on Mondays ready for use in lessons at the start of the week.
3. **Non-fiction text** of choice - these texts are aimed at providing learners with the opportunity to read and develop their knowledge in different subject areas such as history, geography and science.

Bug Club online reading - these provide independent comprehension practice. Like the banded books, the texts your child meets closely match the texts to their reading ability and comprehension skills. It also enables class teachers to monitor progress as well.

Your child will be encouraged to develop their thinking and understanding when reading using their bookmark. On here they will record the following:

- Expand their vocabulary choices using the texts they are reading by identifying and recording new words and their definitions (2 words, 3 x per week).
- Infer character feelings, thoughts, motives and justify with evidence from the text in 2/3 sentences.
- Summarise an interesting fact they have learned from their non-fiction reading.
- Think of a text related question for the WCR to share in lessons the following week.

‘There are many little ways to enlarge your child’s world. Love of books is the best of all.’ Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis