



**Mrs Louise Wood BA (Hons) PGCE NPQH  
Headteacher**

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Reading Books and Reading for Pleasure**

I am writing this letter as a polite reminder to ask your children to bring back any books that belong to the school. We have found that a few levelled sets of books are running very low and we believe some of these may be hidden under beds, in book corners or maybe under car seats. We would be extremely grateful if you wouldn't mind asking your children to have a really good look and bring back any that they find before the end of the week or after half term – the more the better!

I would also like to remind you that children will not bring a book home from school during half term however I strongly encourage children to continue to read at home for pleasure. This academic year, we have started a weekly 'Story Time Assembly' for Key Stage 1 and 2 where a member of the Senior Leadership Team reads to the children and talks about the vast benefits of reading and listening to stories. As well as the obvious academic benefits, enjoying storytime helps to develop children's vocabulary and imagination; supports mental health and encourages empathy and a greater understanding of the world. Reading is the key to unlock enormous potential in your child, in ways they may not realise and across all areas of the curriculum. If your child is a confident reader then they will easily access texts about King Henry VIII in history lessons, for example, or confidently read and understand questions during a maths lesson. The children are really enjoying our new 'Story Time Assembly' dedicated to promoting a love of reading and hopefully he/she has told you about this at home.

If your child, or indeed yourself as an adult, is a reluctant reader then please do not give up. The secret to promoting reading is about finding texts that interest your child and being a good 'reading role model', whether that be fiction or non-fiction, poetry or even the weekly newspaper and finding time in your busy schedules to share these together. If your child prefers to listen to you read then that's fine - the more you model reading, the more confident they will become. You could ask them questions while you read to engage them or even ask them to join in with certain points of the story. If reading is constrained to the 10 - 20 minutes obligatory reading of the story in your child's book bag, it can become a chore (although we obviously hope this is not the case) and therefore the benefits mentioned previously are not enjoyed.

I have attached suggested reading lists for each year group as inspiration, [www.booktrust.org.uk](http://www.booktrust.org.uk) is also great, and would like to remind you that the School Book Fair is on for the duration of this week. Happy reading!

Many thanks,

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