

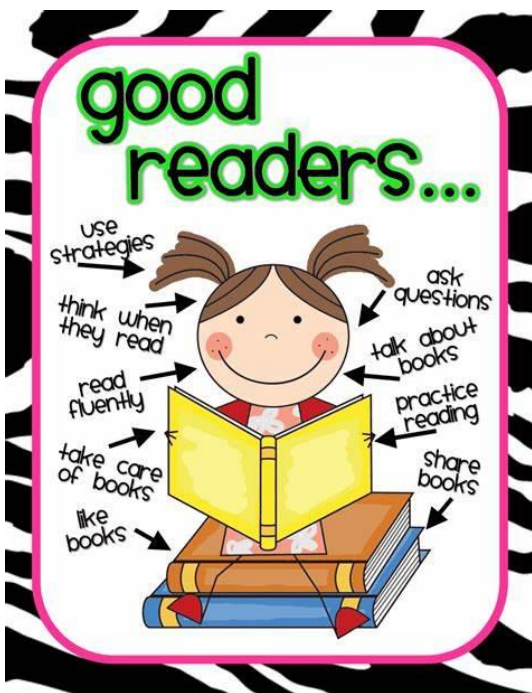


Monday 11th September 2023

Dear parents and carers,

As a school, we highly prioritise reading as being one of the most crucial and beneficial skills that children can develop, not to mention one of the most enjoyable and rewarding! We also aim to develop a lifelong love of reading within our pupils. Please find below some information about our reading procedures at Ogbourne.

Home-School reading at Ogbourne



Practising the learning from phonics and reading lessons at home is essential for children to make good progress in reading. Reading at home at least four times across the week is homework set to every child throughout their time at Ogbourne. We also build in reading practice sessions in school time, either as a class, with a teacher or with a parent volunteer. **It is therefore vital that children understand the importance of bringing their book bags to school and home again daily.** This is why we begin this practise in Acorns all the way through to Poplars.

Book bags

At the start of each school year, all children will be provided with a plastic wallet in which to keep their reading books. You are also most welcome to purchase a school or other book bag in place of the plastic wallet and this can be used from Acorns through to Poplars. We request that books and reading records are kept in a book bag or plastic wallet, to preserve them. We have purchased many new books recently and would like to ensure that as many children as possible get to read these without them being damaged at the bottoms of lunch, swimming or PE bags etc.

Reading Records

A reading record will be issued to every child at the start of the school year. This should be kept with their reading books at all times. This is how we keep track of what children are reading. In Acorns and Oaks, we ask parents to note home reading in this record book. It really helps us in our book selection if parents have noted what



went well and any difficulties their children are experiencing with reading that week. We may not comment in this book but be assured that we do take note of parental comments written in here.

By KS2, we still encourage parents to continue to read with their children and to make a quick note of this in the reading record if possible. As children become more independent with their reading we ask them to record their own reading. We show them how to mark the date, the title of new books and pages they read each session. The reading record acts as a bookmark of their reading.

Children will bring their book bags and its contents into class daily and place them in an accessible place in the classroom until needed in a reading session or until home time e.g. class Book bag box.

Reading book selection

In Acorns and Year 1, all children will be learning to read with the ELS phonics programme. Two decodable 'Read by myself' books matched to the weeks' learning and the child's phonics ability, will be issued each week. Children will also be able to select their own age-appropriate 'Read with someone' sharing book from the library.

Skills books

As children finish the ELS programme – usually in Year 2, we assess their readiness to move from decodable books by taking into account the results of the KS1 phonics screening check and the end of ELS programme assessment. This assessment checks reading speed, fluency and comprehension. Only when children are assessed as having fully accurate grapheme-phoneme correspondence, and reading confidence will they be moved from the decodable books to transition books. We call these books 'skills books'. Children will continue to be able to choose an age-appropriate sharing book from the library alongside the two skills books.

Guided Readers

Throughout our lifelong reading journey, we are all guided in our reading – whether this be by teachers, relatives, friends, bookstores, kindle recommendations or reviews. We believe this title ('guided reader') demonstrates to children that once they have mastered early reading skills, they are not cut adrift at sea alone!

The transition from reading decodable books, then skills books and then to 'Guided Reader' could be during Year 2 or well into KS2. At school we will continue to monitor what children are reading, how they are reading it and their understanding of their reading. We encourage parents to check in on their children's reading also. Children will initially be guided to age-appropriate bookshelves in the school library from which to choose their books. As children become more confident in their choices we will be able to guide children by book genre and author.



Library time

Every class is allocated time in the library to choose their sharing book or own book. The book must be signed out by an adult. A new book will not be allocated until the previous one has been returned. If a child needs to change a book before their next library visit, they should tell the class teacher who will facilitate this.

Books for Topics

We are extremely lucky to have been able to purchase 50 new books for each of the years 3-6 from the 'Books for Topics' lists. These lists are updated regularly and include children's classics and many new books – fiction and non-fiction. Every child in KS2 will have the opportunity to select these books – even if they are reading a skills book alongside it. We will be encouraging children to tick off the books they have read from the list in their reading records and to be able to guide their friends to books that they have particularly enjoyed. We aim for children to enjoy reading for pleasure as well as simply for information retrieval and believe that peer recommendation and encouragement really helps achieve this.

Thank you so much in advance for your support with your children's reading at Ogbourne.

Kind Regards,

Karina Nicholson
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