

Dear Key Stage 2 Parents,

At Christ the King Primary School, we value reading as an essential life skill that encourages children to achieve their full potential. We have high expectations of our children as readers. Reading is taught in specific reading and English lessons but children are constantly practising their reading skills in the wider curriculum. Reading has been a great success at Christ the King for many years, much of this success can be attributed to the support and encouragement that children are given from reading with parents at home. Strong home-school partnerships are highly beneficial to reading development throughout a child's time at school.

Last year, we invested money in a wide range of reading material in reading schemes, the school library and class libraries to give the children a range of reading experiences. Children choose their own reading book either from a book band that is appropriate to their reading ability, their class library or the school library. It is important to remember that reading is not only about being able to read the words but to read them with understanding to be able to answer questions about the text - including where answers may need to be inferred, suggested or implied. Books throughout school are banded into colours. In Key Stage 1 we would expect children to be reading books from the following colours:-

Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6	Lime	
Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6	Brown	Year 3
Y4, Y5, Y6	Grey	Year 4
Y5, Y6	Dark Blue	Year 5
Y6	Dark Red	Year 6
Y6+	Black	

After the children have completed all the book bands they would move onto free reading. Children will work at their own pace through the bands only moving on when teachers feel they are ready to progress. Movement between bands is not only dependent on the ability to decode but also on being able to show an appropriate comprehension of texts they meet.

As children move through EYFS and KS1, they develop their skills in decoding. By the time they reach KS2 most children have mastered their phonic skills and the balance moves towards making meaning from the text and developing fluency.

We expect every child to read to an adult at home every day for 10 to 20 minutes. Whilst this is only an expectation, we hope you appreciate the impact this can have on your child's education. If it is not possible to listen to your child read every day, we ask for a minimum of 3 times a week. We do appreciate that life is very busy and sometimes it might not be possible to listen to your child read every day.

Every new writing genre begins with a whole class guided reading session. Teachers will share quality texts with the children, discussing the text and asking focussed questions. The text will be shared with you via Google Classroom the Friday before. Please read this with your child so they are prepared for the reading lesson on the Monday.

Your child will read their reading book to an adult in school once a week. Should your child have finished his/her book before they are heard reading that week, he/she will be able to change it so long as the reading record has been signed at home. We will try our very best to change the book during the course of the day and listen to your child read a few pages to ensure it is suitable for them. Occasionally, this is not possible, as school days can be very busy! If this does happen, please feel free to read a book from home with your child and make a note of it in your child's reading record. If there is ever an issue with your child's reading book please have a chat with the class teacher.

Once you have listened to your child read, please make a comment and sign your child's reading record for the class teacher to see. Send the reading record into school with your child's reading book every day. When making comments, please refer to the stage objective sheet, which is stuck in your child's reading record, as these are the reading targets that your child should be working towards. Due to current government guidance on Covid 19, teachers will not be signing reading records and we will be keeping our own record in school. Your child should bring their reading record into class every morning so that an adult can read the comments. Please only comment on reading; any other issues should be discussed directly with the class teacher.

Every teacher will keep a record of the number of times each child has read. For every 25 times your child reads, they will receive a certificate. The child who has read the most books in each KS2 class each term will receive a book related prize.

We hope you appreciate the importance of listening to your child read at home and we thank you for your ongoing support. Should any issues arise from this, please let your child's class teacher know. We hope that through our home school partnership we can promote an enjoyment of reading!

Yours Sincerely,
Mrs Sherrington