

New Reading Challenge for 2023

Friday 6 January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

A very happy new year to you all. It has been great to welcome the children back at the start of term 3. As you will be aware, as a school we ask for your support as parents in reading at home as much as possible with your child. This is a vital part of our reading provision and goes a long way to helping children get into good, positive reading habits. We believe that there is nothing better than sitting down with a loved one and sharing a good book.

Our home reading expectations are that children *ideally* read at home every day – but as a minimum **five** times a week.



A New Year's Reading Challenge for Warden House

This term, we have set the children a new reading target to encourage them to read at home as much as possible. We have challenged the children to earn **22,500** "points" between now and July. If they can do this, then I have agreed to arrange for an ice cream van to visit the school and will buy everybody an ice cream! The children are very excited about this and are certainly up for the challenge.

- Year R, 1 and 2 children – (and those not on Accelerated Reader) will earn ½ point for every time they read at home. Please make sure that each day this is entered into your child's reading record so that staff can record this in school.
- Those children on our Accelerated Reader system in Years 2-6 will earn points for every successful quiz that they take. These will be monitored and logged by school staff. Children can view how many points are available for each book by looking at the label inside the front cover. Parents can monitor this too through the [Accelerated Reader "home connect" function](#).



- We will monitor the progress towards this target regularly and share updates with you and the children in assemblies and newsletters and on social media. Also, visit our [school website](#) to find out more about how Accelerated Reader works.

What you can do:

- ***Build in routines at home to ensure that you read with your child each day. We cannot stress this enough. It is so important.***
- *Make sure that your child's reading is recorded in their reading record every day.*
- *Even for older children in KS2, reading aloud to an adult is still incredibly valuable. For more able readers, reading aloud helps them to really hear where features such as sentence punctuation fit. This in turn helps with the quality of their writing in school.*
- *Please also visit the reading section of our school website for a range of tips, advice and ideas regarding supporting reading at home and see our top tips over leaf.*
- *There are [some fantastic links to high quality reading texts](#) already on our website to inspire our children*

We have a new "Ideas and Suggestions" box in our school library. Should there be a new book that your child would like to read that they cannot find in school – or has only just been released, ask them to post the details into the suggestion box. It is then likely that this book can be ordered for the school library. Make sure they include their full name and class on any slip that they post in the box!

We want reading to be a fun and enjoyable experience and something that our children are motivated to do. Should you ever have any questions or concerns about your child's reading, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Thank you for your support with this very important initiative.

Yours faithfully

Mr Rob Hackett
Headteacher



Top Tips to Support Reading at Home

1. Encouragement

Encourage your child to read! Reading on a daily basis has a big impact on children of all ages. Reading helps your child's well-being, develops imagination and has huge educational benefit as well.

2. Regular reading

Try to read to your child every day. It's a special time to snuggle up and enjoy a story. Stories matter and children love re-reading them and poring over the pictures. Try adding funny voices to bring characters to life. Reading aloud also allows you to model reading fluency to your child.

3. Encourage reading choice

Give children lots of opportunities to read different things in their own time - it doesn't just have to be books. There's fiction, non-fiction, poetry, comics, magazines, recipes and much more. Try leaving interesting reading material in different places around the home and see who picks it up.

4. Read together

Choose a favourite time to read together as a family and enjoy it. This might be everyone reading the same book together, reading different things at the same time, or getting your children to read to each other. This time spent reading together can be relaxing for all.

5. Create a comfortable environment

Make a calm, comfortable place for your family to relax and read independently - or together.

6. Make use of your local library

We have a great library in Deal with a wonderful children's section. Local libraries also offer brilliant online materials, including audiobooks and e-books to borrow. See [Libraries Connected](#) for more digital library services and resources.

7. Talk about books

This is a great way to make connections, develop understanding and make reading even more enjoyable. Start by discussing the front cover and talking about what it reveals and suggests the book could be about. Then talk about what you've been reading and share ideas. You could discuss something that happened that surprised you, or something new that you found out. You could talk about how the book makes you feel and whether it reminds you of anything. There are some example questions in the reading comprehension section.

8. Bring reading to life

You could try cooking a recipe you've read together. Would you recommend it to a friend? Alternatively, play a game where you pretend to be the characters in a book, or discuss an interesting article you've read.

9. Make reading active

Play games that involve making connections between pictures, objects and words, such as reading about an object and finding similar things in your home. You could organise treasure hunts related to what you're reading. Try creating your child's very own book by using photos from your day and adding captions.

10. Engage your child in reading in a way that suits them

You know your child best and you'll know the best times for your child to read. If they have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) then short, creative activities may be the way to get them most interested. If English is an additional language, encourage reading in a child's first language, as well as in English. What matters most is that they enjoy it.