

FOUNDATION HOME READING PROGRAM



As promised, the home reading program begins today! Each student will be given a book to bring home inside their reader cover (if your child does not have one of these, could you please send one along as soon as possible). Here are some helpful pointers!

- ✚ Students are expected to read their book at home and then they read the book again to the parent helpers in the corridor the next morning. They then select a new book to take home.
- ✚ Books are recorded on the sheet inside the reader cover and we would appreciate you signing off on each book that is read. Book bags need to come to school every day.
- ✚ Sometimes it takes a little trial and error to find a good time for reading at home. Some students prefer to make it part of the bed time routine, others cope straight after school and others need to do it in the morning before school.
- ✚ The big key at this point is to build their reading confidence and constant praise and encouragement is a big part of this. The students are being taught a variety of strategies to help them learn to read (a copy of these is inside the reader cover). Looking at the picture is a cue that is very important to them at this point of learning to read, so please do not cover them up.
- ✚ Early level books are quite repetitive and students may seem to just be rote learning them. Try to direct their attention to the print by having them run their finger along it as they read.
- ✚ At this stage of the year we are still trying to assess the level of reading ability of each student. Most will therefore begin at Magenta (pink) level books. Remember confidence is very important at this stage so please do not worry if a book seems easy.
- ✚ We allocate each student a day of the week on which they read to the teacher. On this day they will not read in the corridor, their reader bag will be sent inside to us. If we feel they are ready to move to a higher level of book we will test them on this day. Please do not change the level of books your child takes home. There are three important aspects to assessing whether a child is ready to move up a reading level; Accuracy, fluency and (most important of all) comprehension. The test we do with the children looks at all three aspects. It is most important not to focus on children 'going up' reading levels and it is a good idea not to compare children. All students will progress at their own pace. Some will start at a high level, some will start low but then progress very quickly, some will work their way through methodically. It is also quite normal for them to have a stage where they 'plateau' for a while. Praise, encouragement and practice are the key!



✚ Don't forget it is also important to continue to read to your child. Modelling good reading behavior, especially expression, is an important part of their reading development.

✚ Word lists- The students will also have a word list stuck inside their reader cover which is based on the common words used in reading. When they are proficient at a list we will give them a new one (this will happen on their designated teacher reading day). We would appreciate it you could make learning these words a part of your daily reading routine with your child. Feel free to make little cards or

game with them. They may also like to write them on whiteboards, make them with magnetic letters, etc.

✚ PARENT HELPERS - Hearing children read in the corridors each morning is a very important job. If you can help (even if it is once a fortnight) please put your name on the sheets outside the classroom doors. Many hands make light work and we would appreciate as many helpers as we can get to make the reading session a quick one. If you missed out on Ms Sell's quick, instructional course, fear not! There is a handout available outside each classroom and there are plenty of experts to show you the ropes.

Book baskets in the corridor are organised this year into colour bands. Each coloured basket contains baskets from 2 or 3 reading levels. Text levels have now been grouped together so that students have a greater variety of books to choose from. This will allow them to practise reading with greater fluency and phrasing as well as focusing on more complex concepts such as making meaning of the text and expanding vocabulary from a greater range of genres and text types. This method of organising the readers has been widely adopted and many publishers such as PM Readers and Pearson label their books according to the colours as well.



FEEL FREE TO COME AND VISIT THE CLASSROOM!

Thank you for helping your child become independent by letting them carry their own bags into the classroom in the mornings. We have been very impressed with just how capable the children are becoming. We do realise, though, that it does make it difficult for you to get into the classroom and see what they are doing. Please feel free to pop in after school and have a look at the rooms. They would be very proud to show you some of their beautiful work.



FAMILY PHOTOS

In week 5 we will be learning the letter 'f' and talking about 'Families'. We would appreciate it if everyone could bring along a family photo for one of our activities. We will copy them and send home the originals. It would be great if the photographs could be sent to school as soon as possible please. If the whole family is not in one photograph, it is okay to bring along two. (immediate family, we don't have to have grandparents, cousins, etc.)

SCHOOL REFUSAL

It is not unusual for students to go through a period of not wanting to go to school. It is not always a reflection of a problem, simply that they would prefer to stay at home and play! Try to stay positive and explain how important it is to come to school. Rest assured if you have to leave them in tears that they will soon be smiling and happily joining in.

Regards,

Jackie, Caz, Brianna, Ash and Lauren