



19 December 2012

Dear Parents / Carers

I would like to update you on the reading practices at Hambrook School, some old and some new.

Reading Schemes

We are very fortunate to have a wide range of reading books for pupils to enjoy. We have books from schemes such as Oxford Reading Tree, Collins, Rigby Star, Phonics X, Big Cat Phonics and more.

We have recently levelled / book banded all of the Key Stage Two reading books; this means that every child (both in Key Stage One and Two) has an individual reading book to take home, at a suitable level for them.

Also on this website page is an overview of our book banding system, with the corresponding National Curriculum levels. It is important to note that each coloured 'book band' contains texts of some varying difficulty, as well as different genres e.g. fiction, non fiction and poetry.

Class books

Classes regularly have their own book, pitched at a higher level than they are reading and read by the teacher to share as a group.

Guided Reading

Pupils in Years One to Six participate in weekly Guided Reading sessions. A small number of children read the same text to their teacher, as a group, often taking it in turns. These are focussed sessions in which the children are continually assessed by their teacher and learn new reading skills to practise at home. Again, these books are typically more difficult than the reading books the children take home.

Each child reads to their teacher in a guided reading session once a week. Guided Reading is arranged in a carousel, therefore, during sessions when a group is not reading to their teacher, they will be reading to themselves or another adult, or completing a comprehension, grammar or independent writing activity set by the teacher. These are also used for assessment purposes.

Book Corners

Each class was fortunate enough to be given a generous donation from the PTA to set up / improve a book corner. They are all looking great and are used regularly; having a positive impact on reading and children's opinions of reading. Teachers are currently looking at ways to keep their book corners current and exciting for the children to use, as well as an effective learning tool.

Reading Expectations

Teachers

All pupils in Years One to Six participate in four guided reading activities per week; one session reading to a teacher, one reading independently or to another adult, one session completing a comprehension activity and one an independent writing task.

Reception and Year One staff ensure reading books are changed twice a week. Pupils in Years Two to Six are responsible for changing their own reading books but parents are very welcome to come in before or after school to help them, if necessary.

Parents

*A 2010 survey by the National Literacy Trust (NLT) of eight- to 17-year olds and their reading showed that more than **96 per cent of those that read daily were reading at or above the expected level** .*

In order to make good progress and to instil a love of reading in our children, they are expected to read at home, to an adult, at least three times each week. Please record this reading in your child's Reading Record book. Staff check these books once a week and children receive a reward if they have read at least three times.

Reading Activities

Attached to this letter are some activities you may like to do with your child/ren to help them with their reading, or just to have fun!

Don't forget that in the Reading Record books are lists of questions you could ask your child when you read with them, as well as ideas to focus on during reading sessions, linked to the level your child is reading at.

Hambrook School's reading results are consistently good, however with these new arrangements, and with your help in working towards a shared outcome, we are hoping to make them even better!

I hope you have found this information helpful, if you have any questions or would like further information, please don't hesitate to ask your child's teacher or pop in and see me after school.

Thank you for your support

Rhianna Thomas
Literacy Coordinator



Reading

As part of our focus on reading and writing in the current School Development Plan we are looking for volunteers who are able to hear children read on a regular basis in school. Children benefit so much from individual one to one support. In class, Guided Reading groups generally happen from 9am – 9.45 every morning. So if you have time to stay after dropping your child at school, whether it's only for 15 minutes or the whole 45 minutes, on a regular day, we would like to hear