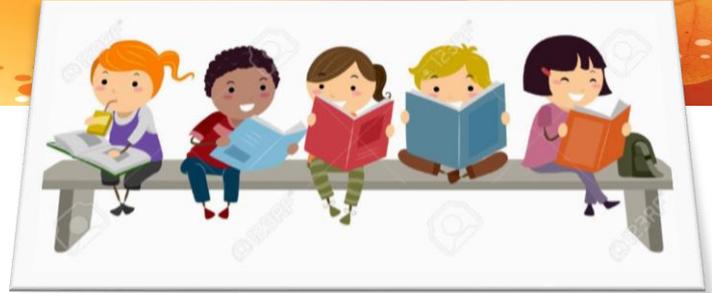


# Reading Newsletter

PRESTON GRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL



## Why are we focusing on Reading for pleasure this year?

Our school priority this year is to increase the number of children who enjoy reading for pleasure. This is for two reasons: The SATs in Year 2 and 6 demand that children are able to independently read long passages of texts. Some of our children struggled to do this in a timed situation last term.

Secondly, and more importantly, we carried out a reading survey of the children across school about their opinions on reading. We were really saddened by the results. The following is a breakdown results of some of the questions, which reveals issues in both reading at home and school:

### **How much do you like reading?**

Whole school overall - 42.4% answered either 'a bit' or 'not at all'.

### **Do you regularly enjoy bedtime reading, either by yourself or with someone else?**

Whole school overall - 30.7% answered 'hardly ever.'

Clearly, this is why as a school we are determined to improve the

children's attitudes towards reading and we have changed some of our practices already in school to engage more children in reading for pleasure. We have a vast range of strategies in place since the beginning of term to create more of a buzz around reading. But we do need our families help with this.

We are aware that at home and school, we are in a sense fighting against the tide of technology, as more and more the children are using I pads, X boxes and social media in their spare time. This does in turn affect how they are able to engage with stories and books when they start school. We hope that over the academic year, you encourage your child to read books, and importantly, we hope that you will read books regularly to your child at home, or once they are independent readers, that you encourage them to read every day to themselves.

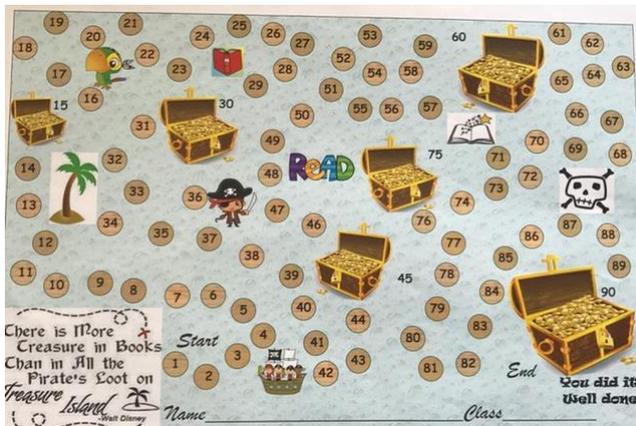
Children need to both hear stories read aloud and also read themselves.

## Research proves that children who enjoy reading do better at school in all subjects.

Please work with us to help improve our children's attitudes towards reading. It is a life skill they will need forever, and reading unlocks everything else in their education to them. Bedtime stories are a routine that as children ourselves, most of us can remember. The bath, book, bed routine is a long established bedtime routine. If finding books that your child likes is an issue, over the next few terms we will be sharing book lists and recommendations with parents.

### Revised reading reward systems in school

#### Reception and Key Stage 1 reading for pleasure reward system.



We really want to promote a love of books and reading for pleasure within Early Years and Key Stage 1. These are the precious years where bedtime reading should be treasured, looked forward to and enjoyed. We hope our system will encourage children and parents to build on their current reading habits.

You can jump one step on the path each time you read a book for pleasure at home. These can be story books or fact books of your choice. We would encourage some of our older children to be sharing short chapter books and understand that these books will mean it takes longer to jump along the path. This is fine...it is not a race, quality and enjoyment of books is much more important than the quantity you read and how fast you read them. There are no prizes for being the first to the end of the path! Please tick, cross off or use stickers to show your progress along the path.

When you reach a treasure chest we need you to bring your treasure map back to school and show your teacher. Your teacher will give you a reading challenge to complete as homework. It is only by completing this challenge that you will be invited to enter the treasure chest of goodies to claim your prize! We would like to place emphasis on this system being 'reading for pleasure'. These books should be books you have at home, borrow from the library or buy with your pocket money. We feel our school reading scheme is part of normal homework routines and we will continue to reward frequent readers of school reading

books with our established in-class systems. Many thanks for your support and happy reading!

### Key Stage 2 reading for pleasure reward system

We are really pleased to introduce our new Key Stage 2 reading award scheme. This scheme will follow the children all the way through the Key Stage and should show a large level of reading.

Each child will receive a booklet which has an extensive list of book titles. These titles have been carefully selected to promote a love of reading by providing a range of challenge and genre for the children to choose from. The list includes both modern and classic fiction titles. The school has copies of these books but they are also available for free at your local library.

The children will get a reward every time they have read (or shared with an adult) eight books. These eight books must include 4 from the reading list provided, three fiction books of the children's choice and one non-fiction book. After each eight books the children will be allowed to choose a prize from our

### The children's ideas!

We asked the children what they would like in school to encourage them to love reading and sharing books. They came up with many ideas, including a space to read outdoors that was a cosy place to read. Here is one of the ideas they suggested: a tepee with cushions and fairy lights.



treasure chest as a reward.

The children will need to continue to choose books carefully that are matched to their age and reading ability but the school will help them to do this effectively. If a child is still on the reading scheme bands we ask that they continue to read these books but also choose books from the list so they can start the challenge.

We are very excited about this new scheme and we hope that you and the children find it useful and enjoyable.



We think this is a lovely idea and we have looked into pricing a large teepee which fits 30 children. It is very expensive at £5,500, but we would love to fundraise this year to be able to provide this for the children. If any parents have any ideas of how we can raise the money we need across the year, please come and have a chat.

### Reading meetings for parents

This half term we will be holding meetings for the following year groups:

- Nursery - 11.45am Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October in the Nursery. Children will be taken into Reception class for 15 minutes while Mrs Dyke meets Nursery parents.
- Reception - 3.30pm Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October in Reception class.
- Year 6 - 4.30pm Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October in Year 6 classroom. Expectations for Year 6, SATs and Reading will be covered.

### Recommended books for children

<http://www.booktrust.org.uk/books/children/books-we-like/> These are recommended new books for children in October from the Book Trust.

<http://www.booktrust.org.uk/books/children/booklists/>

These are booklists of: The great books guide for 4-5 year olds, 6-7 year olds, 8+ year olds, poetry books, reading difficulties and dyslexia, books about friendship, Michael Morpurgo books, Roald Dahl books and many more recommended booklists.

<http://www.booktrust.org.uk/books/children/100-best-books/> The suggested best books for children of different ages.

### How to read with children of any age

- Set aside some time. Find somewhere quiet without any distractions - turn off the TV/radio/computer.

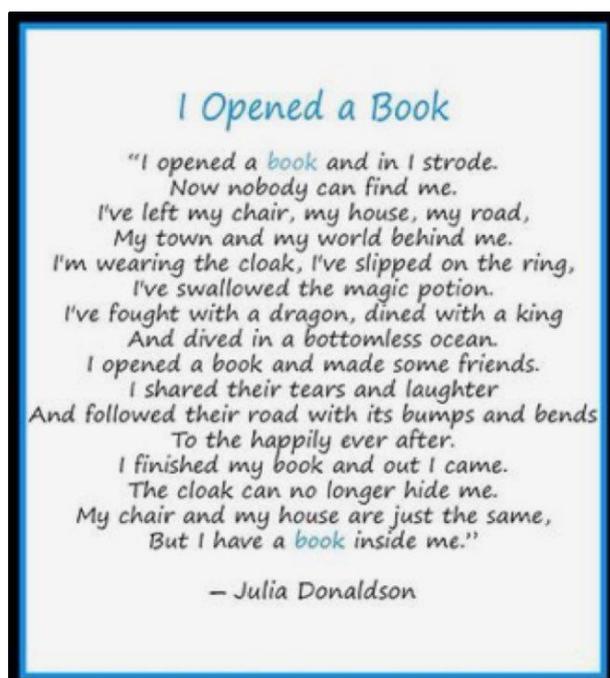
- Ask your child to choose a book. Sharing books they have chosen shows you care what they think and that their opinion matters. This means they are more likely to engage with the book.
- Sit close together. Encourage your child to hold the book themselves and/or turn the pages.
- Point to the pictures. If there are illustrations, relate them to something your child knows. Ask them to describe the characters or situation or what will happen next. Encourage them to tell you the story by looking at the pictures.
- Encourage your child to talk about the book. Talking about the characters and their dilemmas helps children understand relationships and is an excellent way for you to get to know each other or discuss difficult issues. Give your child plenty of time to respond. Ask them what will happen next, how a character might be feeling, or how the book makes them feel.
- And lastly, above all - make it fun! It doesn't matter how you read with a child, as long as you both enjoy the time together. Don't be afraid to use funny voices: children love this!

### Benefits for life

We aim to inspire children to love reading and to read together more with their family.

*"When children get older and start to learn to read for themselves, it can be tempting for parents to step back and let them continue their reading adventures alone. However, research shows the enjoyment of reading, developed through shared reading time with parents or carers, has a significant positive impact on a wide range of life outcomes including social, personal, health & well-being and educational.*

*It is now widely acknowledged that children who enjoy reading will read more often and this helps them do better at school, even in subjects like Maths. Indeed, reading for pleasure regularly has more of an*



*impact on a child's educational achievement than having a parent with a degree.*

*It is the combination of skills and a love of reading that enables children to achieve academically and in life."*  
(Book Trust)

At school therefore, we will be launching the 'caught reading' hash tag **#PGPScaughtreading** and we would love families to either send into school via email, photos of children reading and enjoying books or listening to bedtime stories -

### Encouraging older children to read

As children get older, there's no need to stop enjoying sharing books and reading together.

Research has shown that children who enjoy reading and spend more time reading for pleasure have better reading and writing skills, a broader vocabulary, and an increased general knowledge and understanding of other cultures.

- But with so many other activities competing for children's time as they get older, how can you continue to encourage your child to read for pleasure? Here are some tips for encouraging reading in your home with older children:
- Ensure that your children see you reading. It doesn't matter if it's the newspaper, a cookery book, romantic novel, detective mystery, short stories, computer manual, magazine - anything!
- Encourage children to join in - ask a child to read out a recipe for you as you cook, or the TV listings when you are watching TV
- Give books or book tokens as

anywhere and everywhere! Or alternatively, tweet us the picture using the above hash tag to our school Twitter account. We can't wait to see when and where the children are getting up to their reading!

presents, and encourage others to do so

- Visit the local library together on a regular basis, and enjoy spending time choosing new books
- Encourage children to carry a book at all times so they can read on journeys or in spare moments - you can do this, too!
- Keep reading together. There are lots of books that both adults and young people can enjoy. Try *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon, the *Harry Potter* series, or *The Life of Pi* by Yann Martel. Read books you can all talk about but make the talk light-hearted, not testing or over-questioning.
- Go to libraries or bookshops when authors are visiting. Children and teenagers love meeting their favourite writers - Jacqueline Wilson and Anthony Horowitz always have signing queues that are miles long!
- Make sure your home is a reading home - have a family

bookshelf and make sure there are shelves in your children's bedrooms as well.

- Don't panic if your child reads the same book over and over again -they will re-tell and 'read' the story back to you. This is early reading

### Reading with children in Early Years

Even tiny babies enjoy stories and rhymes. Sharing books with babies and toddlers is a great way to help them learn about their world, and talking about the pictures will help your child begin to talk.

Try to make time to enjoy books every day - you can share books anywhere, anytime and a bedtime story is a lovely way to end the day.

### **Ways you can help your child enjoy stories and rhymes**

- Take time to look together at the words and pictures in a story.
- Use your hands and face as well as your voice - your child will love to see you smiling.
- Use animal sounds like woof, growl and hoot - this will really help to bring the story to life.
- Stories and rhymes can be shared with the whole family so why not invite siblings or other family members to join in?
- Don't be shy, relax and enjoy - if you are having fun so will your child.

development.

- Encourage your children and their friends to swap books with each other. This will encourage them to talk and think about the books they are reading.



- Sit close together when sharing a book and encourage your child to hold the book themselves and/or turn the pages
- Don't be afraid to use funny voices - it's a great way to make your child giggle. And don't be afraid to sing either - they won't care whether or not you sing in tune or know the words!
- When you talk to your child about what's going on in a book, give them plenty of time to respond. Try to ask questions that don't require just yes or no answers. For example, ask them what they think will happen next ask or about how a character might be feeling.

- Sharing books isn't just about the words - point to the pictures and relate them to something your child knows.
- Using a puppet to act out a story can help your child to understand what's going on and learn how to pretend play. Why not pick a character

from your book and use the puppet to show what they are doing? Watch the video below for more guidance.

- And lastly - make it fun! It doesn't matter how you read with a child, as long as you both enjoy the time together!

### Events for the children this term:

**October 19<sup>th</sup>** - Chris Bostock storyteller in school (see separate letter sent. Please ask at the office if you did not receive this letter)

**October 31<sup>st</sup>** - Some of the School Council will be going to Waterstones in Newcastle for a session with the Manager of Children's Books, to select some new books for our school library.

**November 4<sup>th</sup>**- Bedtime story day. A non-uniform day (we would like children to wear their onesies or pyjamas and dressing gowns!) We will be having bedtime stories and books as the theme for the day.

**November 25<sup>th</sup>**- book swap in school. The School Council would like children to bring into school, any books that they have finished with, in order to swap at a large book swap at playtime. More info to follow.

**December 12<sup>th</sup>** - Tanya Bentham, Christmas storyteller in school.

### Events at half term

At Seven Stories, there is a Roald Dahl event - please visit the Seven Stories website to find out more.

Tracey Taylor

Headteacher

October 2016

