

Cambois Blog

Monday 5th February 2018



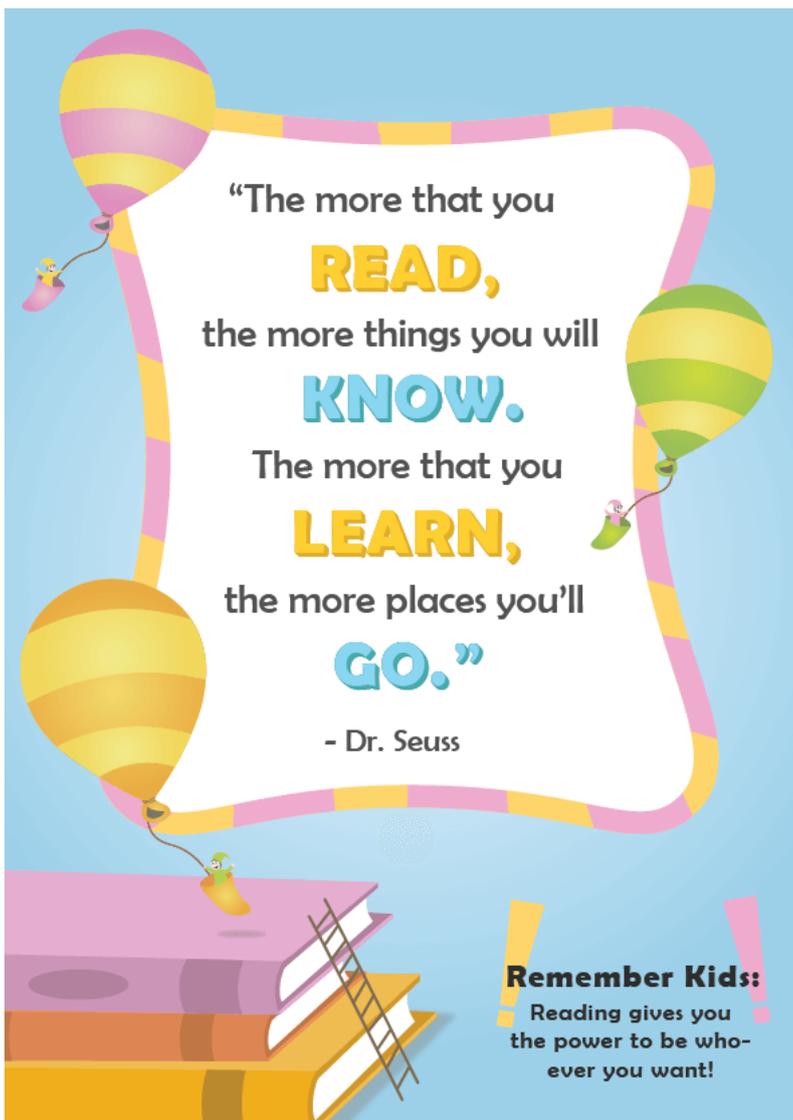
Dates for the Diary

Thursday 8th Feb - Valentine's disco

Friday 9th Feb -Green trip in the afternoon,
break up for the half term holiday

NUFC Football—Thursday's after the holidays

Thursday football club after the holidays will be for invited children only. You will be informed of this. We want to ensure we really develop our boys and girls teams for tournaments and events so we will be targeting these children.



REMINDER

Names are starting to wash out of uniforms now so could you please check and write them in again.

PROGRESS FILES -

HOW TO GET GREEN

ATTENDANCE

PUNCTUALITY

BEHAVIOUR

EFFORT

PE KIT AND UNIFORM

HOMEWORK

READING

PROGRESS FILES—GOING FOR GREEN

It has been brought to my attention that a few of the requirements for our progress files system have not been made clear. Hopefully this will outline the system for you.

PURPOSE—why do we do the progress files and green trips?

3 years ago when I came to Cambois I devised and implemented this unique system. There is a clear correlation between high expectations and motivation on future success. Do you all want your child to achieve well in their life and be motivated that hard work pays off? Do you want them to become the best they can be?

This system costs the school approximately £5000 out of our budget each year. That is the equivalent cost of a part time teaching assistant. A very high cost that we ask nothing from parents to contribute to financially. That is how much value we place on the system.

Every child starts as green and has the possibility to stay and achieve green. All children and parents are informed weekly of how their children are doing. The class teachers text this information and I monitor any children regularly who may not be keeping on track and look at solutions as ultimately we too want every child to be green. I hold assemblies and one-ones with children to help see how they can get on track. When children get red they sit with me and we plan the next half term, including setting targets and making planners of how to get to that green standard. I even plan and deliberately book trips to target those children who have been struggling. They help book the next trip as greater motivation to get there.

PARENTS/ CARERS role– It is a whole team effort READING, HOMEWORK, PE kit, uniform, attendance and punctuality.

There are vital parts of the system that require parental support. Your children will need support and motivation from home to help lead a successful life. We **EXPECT** parents to read twice a week with their children and sign their books honestly. There has been some confusion over when you should read and we apologise if this message has not been clear to all parents. We have never said not to read on a morning. What we said over a year ago now was too many children (particularly children in year 5 & 6) had not read by Wednesday evening. Their teachers would highlight this to them and say they had not read for five days previously so they would need to do so on the Wednesday and Thursday as we noticed too many parents standing at the door and signing records on a Friday morning, This is not acceptable so therefore we said children who squeezed reading in on a Friday morning would not count as green as they had been advised earlier in the week they needed to do it and had had plenty of time before Friday morning. This is not quality reading that will improve learning. The children themselves are very honest and many children tell their teachers that their parents just sign their books and do not bother reading with them. I am sure we do not want to encourage children to lie and to avoid doing things that ultimately improve their lives and chances. One boy in year 6 has worked so hard on improving his reading at home as he was constantly getting red and recent assessments showed his reading age improved by 8 months since the last assessment. We can see a clear correlation between academic achievement with those who read frequently and those who do not. I will not accept excuses like parents do not have time, have a number of children, have children with special needs or are from single parent homes. 52% of our school are on the school's special needs register for a whole host of learning and behavioural needs, many families have a number of children, many families have other commitments like clubs (2 children do clubs until 9 pm every night and they still read every night), and many children have one parent at home alongside working commitments. Most of the older children can read independently so reading in bed every night is totally acceptable and something you should encourage them to do. Many of you who have older children will see we ask very little compared to the expectation once the children get to High school so we are encouraging good habits from an early age. Most children are home by 4pm every night and if we say their bedtime is 7.30pm that means they have a total of 24.5 hours a week and we ask for 2 x 10 minutes of reading. That is 1470 minutes of time they have when they come in from school and we are asking for 20 minutes of that. Is that unreasonable? I am sure most of the children have electronic devices, computers or consoles that they find much more than 20 minutes to play on? I am sure parents spend more than 20 minutes a week on their mobile phone?

Other things children work on

Effort and behaviour are all things we work on in school for the children to get green. The majority of children achieve this superbly and the most common thing that children get red for is reading at home.

I am strict with this system as we have to have high expectations and a high standard. The children love this system and they are responsible, motivated and encouraged to get green.

Please ensure you have the same value on your contribution.