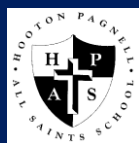


Hooton Pagnell All Saints Church of England Primary School

Preparing Pupils for their Future



Clayton Lane, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN5 7BT

Acting Headteacher: Mrs H Thorpe



Thursday 8th September 2022

Dear Families,

It is our aim to do everything we can to help your child to read. We teach children how to read but we want them to read really well so that they are confident when they see pages of writing that they haven't seen before and so that they are confident to express their views and opinions about the things they read.

After changes we have made in school over the past few years (introducing *read, write inc.*, novel study and reading card incentives and rewards), we have seen huge improvements in the reading skills and the interest our children have in reading a range of texts. Staff from other schools continue to comment on the 'love of reading' that they feel is evident in school and our reading assessments continue to show that the progress and attainment of our children in reading is higher than national and local averages.

To continue to achieve this, we need your help.

As you are aware, our aim is to encourage a love of reading and prepare children to be able to read a variety of material confidently, which is something we have worked on really hard during the past four years. Therefore, we ask you to continue spending time **every day enjoying the experience** of reading with your child. Young readers become better readers by listening to good readers read and by reading themselves. This does not have to be story books or the book your child brings home from school. It can be comics, magazines or non-fiction books. You may choose to read to your child while he/she listens, read with your child (alternating who reads) or listen to him/her read to you. Whichever you choose, always be sure to ask your child questions about the book before, during, and after reading to better judge if they are understanding what they are reading.

By tomorrow (Friday), all children will have been sent home with a reading book that is at an appropriate level, based on our assessments (for the younger children, we have sent home a picture book for you to read with them). **This book should come to school each day** so the children have chance to continue to enjoy and discuss it at appropriate times during the school day. Later this term, some of the children may enjoy bringing home a non-fiction book each week on a topic of interest to them.

In addition to the reading book, we have also sent home your child's reading card, which will be once again be used to communicate about how often your child is reading at home. As a staff, we have many working parents and so we understand how the expectation to record what our children are reading each day can be a both time-consuming and monotonous. Consequently, this year, we are continuing to use a much simpler method than is used in most other schools. All we would like to know is that the children have read (or shared a book with you) and you can help us with this this by signing and dating the boxes on the reading card. If you would like to tell us more, you are very welcome to do so on class dojo. For the older children (class 4), we understand that much of their reading is independent. Although we still encourage you to read with them occasionally and ask them questions about their reading experiences frequently, we simply ask you to sign and date the card for them to receive their dojos. The cards do need signing by an adult rather than by the children themselves. **We ask that the reading cards are used as bookmarks in the children's school reading books, so come into school with them each day.**

Children love incentives. Therefore, we would like them to show us their reading card each time it has been signed 5 times. For this, the children will be awarded a dojo. There is one rule though: you can only sign the card once per day, even if your child reads more than that. In school, the children are incredibly good at keeping check of this, as I am sure they are at home when 'fairness' is at stake! Each card has space for 20 signatures, so, for those children who read every day, can be totally filled in 20 days. Once your child has filled the card, they will receive 3 extra dojos and will post their card into the reading prize draw box. Once every five or six weeks, we will draw cards out of the box and the children who these cards belong to will be able to choose a reading book as a prize. Their cards will be returned to the prize draw box ready for next time. Obviously, the more cards the children fill, the more chances they will have of winning the prizes. Over the past four years, all children have looked forward to these book prize draws and we feel that the books we purchased as prizes were an excellent investment and worked well in encouraging the children to practise reading regularly.

We know from research all over the world that children who read widely and often and who have plenty of books or magazines to read, do better at school than children who don't have books and magazines. Together, we can make sure that all the children at Hooton Pagnell All Saints Primary are in this group- we definitely pride ourselves with the title of being a 'reading school'.

If you have any questions about reading and/or the reading cards, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs H Thorpe
Acting Headteacher and English Subject Lead



#LovetoRead