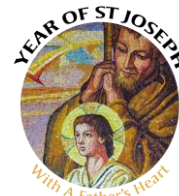




St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Diocese of Clifton



Inspiring everyone to **REACH** through **Faith, Hope, Love**

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Acting Headteacher: Mrs Clare Howells

September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Reading Gives You Wings...

Reading is a skill we continue to develop throughout our lives, but starting this process as early as possible has significant benefits for our continued success as readers. This is why, as parents and carers, you play a vital role in supporting your child in becoming a fluent reader who is confidently able to apply their reading skills across all areas of their lives.

The teaching of reading and reading comprehension within the classroom is only part of a child's learning, and the value that is given to reading at home is equally important. Research suggests that children, who read regularly outside of school, have improved focus, memory, empathy, and communication skills; it helps them to become independent and successful learners, so it really is a lifelong skill. You can help your child to achieve their full potential by listening to them read daily (for about 15 minutes), reading regular bedtime stories and by encouraging them to enjoy reading and sharing books together. Reading widely through all of these approaches will help develop your child's vocabulary, which in turn will make them more confident when reading more challenging books.

Giving your child a choice over what they read is an important factor in boosting their enthusiasm for reading and children are more likely to be interested in books they have selected for themselves. Your local library is an incredibly useful resource in providing regular reading material for your child and best of all – it's free!

To help us track how much reading your child is doing at home, it is important that you sign their reading record every time you have listened to them read, along with a brief comment. We encourage all children to be working towards achieving their reading awards. They need to have five signatures in their log to earn a stamp towards these. At the upper end of Key Stage 2, when children are more likely to be reading with confidence and fluency, they could be keeping their own daily records, which should be signed by parents/carers too. Your support with reading at home is essential and only by working together can we ensure your child achieves their potential as a reader. If you require any further guidance regarding reading, please ask your child's class teacher.

To help you and your child(ren) make appropriate choices about the books they read, I have placed lists of recommendations for each year group on our website. This is not an exhaustive list but may give you some ideas of where to start.

Staff have worked hard over the summer holidays revamping our class reading areas and we are continuing to develop them using the theme 'Reading Gives You Wings'. As part of this, the homework for each child for the first week will be to create a review of the book that they love the most/have enjoyed over the summer or are enjoying now. We would also like to see the children's reading places where they love to read so that we can celebrate and share these in class. Please can the children bring in their book reviews, supplied by their class teacher and pictures in to their class by Wednesday 13th September.

Thank you for your continued support and happy reading!

Mrs Knight (Reading and Writing lead and Year 6 Teacher)

