

Reading for Pleasure



Friday 17th November, 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

At Highfield, we are creating a strong reading for pleasure culture in which all children, regardless of age or ability, are immersed in the genres of poetry, fiction and non-fiction.

Parents/ Carers, the home environment and school are all essential partners in fostering this love of reading in our children.

Therefore, to support your child/children in nurturing their love of reading they will be bringing home two books every week, a wordless book and a 'Read to Me' book.

Wordless Books

One of these books will be a wordless book, which is very important for your child's reading development. These books allow your child to learn how stories work, including the order and direction in which they read, without the pressure of words on the page. Your child will enjoy talking about the story and discussing what is happening in the pictures. The first step in their reading is to use visual prompts to help read the words. The pictures provide lots of opportunities for your child to play with environmental sounds (these are common noises we hear all around us in our daily lives) which is an important first step in the teaching of their phonics.

Here are some suggested activities and ideas for you to do when sharing these books with your child:

- Respond to your child's ideas by repeating them back and introducing new words to increase their vocabulary.
- Look at the front cover and read the title to your child. Ask them what they think the story will be about? Relate the title back to your child i.e. 'The lost gloves' have they ever lost anything? Or 'Puddles' what do you do when you see a puddle?
- Allow your child to turn the pages of the book and describe what they see in the pictures. You could take it in turns to tell a page of the story.
- Encourage your child to add sounds to accompany the action in story and talk about any sounds that might be found in the story setting i.e. 'Feed the Birds' what sounds might you hear outside?
- Once you have finished sharing the book, ask your child to retell the story in their own words.
- Did they enjoy the story? Why?
- Record any comments in your child's reading record book, every time you read together.
- Look at letters in words which may be in your child's name.
- Ask your child to point to different things on the page

'Read to Me' Books

The second book chosen by your child is a book for you to read to them.

Research has shown that there can be few things as powerful as regularly reading to a young child and that it has astonishing benefits for your child.

The National Literacy Trust's research has found that reading to your child:

- gives comfort and reassurance
- builds confidence and security
- encourages relaxation
- brings happiness and fun

'Giving a child time and full attention when reading them a story tells them they matter. It builds self-esteem, vocabulary, feeds imagination and even improves their sleeping patterns.'(National Literacy Trust)

Therefore, at Highfield, we will be sending home two books every **Friday** and these will need to be returned every **Thursday**. We will also be sending home a reading record book, with the reading books, in which we encourage you to write any comments regarding the books and your child's responses to them. Please always sign and date the reading record books.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Kind regards

Mrs. Gil (Class Teacher)

Miss Burns (Deputy Headteacher)

