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Headteacher: Mr Iain Horner

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### Reading at Chesterton

Being able to read is not just an important skill in itself, but it also underpins and inspires development in children's writing. With this in mind, we have made it one of our aims to encourage and promote a love of reading and books. We hope that by engaging our children in stories and books, it will open up a rich experience of characters, places, events and ideas that they can be inspired by in their own writing. If children read regularly and develop a love of books and reading, they will understand what good writing is like and it will help them develop their own use of varied, interesting and effective language.



"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." -Dr Seuss

You learn to *write*  
better by *reading*.  
You learn to *read*  
better by *writing*.  
Reading and writing *work*  
*together* to improve your  
ability to *think*!

### New Home Reading Diaries

This week, the children will be bringing home their new reading diaries. In recognition of the importance of regular reading, we have decided to invest in our new engaging and rewarding diaries. We hope you will agree that they contain helpful advice and will motivate our children to read on a regular basis. You will notice that as your child reads, they can keep a cumulative count of the number of days that they have read, resulting in a sticker award at certain points throughout the year. When children achieve their reading awards, their efforts will be celebrated in school. Please encourage your child to take good care of their diary, as a replacement would come with a small cost.

Please help your child to look through the new home reading diaries and familiarise yourself with the advice and awards. Sharing reading time with your child regularly at home is a valuable opportunity to support them at their stage of reading. Early on, this may involve helping them to work out words using their phonic knowledge, but it should also be a time when you can talk about the story and the characters. As children progress with their reading, it can be easy to assume that adult support is no longer needed, but we ask that you continue to make reading time a regular part of your routine, as you can provide valuable support and guidance. The emphasis of your conversations will alter as your child becomes a more accurate reader and more time should be spent talking about the author's choices of vocabulary, the effect the book has on them as a reader and thinking beyond the literal.

If you would like any further advice on how to support and encourage your child's reading at home, please do let us know.

## **Reading Raffle**

As a further reward and incentive for regular reading, every child will have the chance to enter our Reading Raffle, which will be drawn each term. When a reading award has been reached (25 nights, 50 nights...etc.), the children will also be given a Reading Raffle ticket. This will give them the chance to win a book prize if they have the winning ticket.

## **Mobile Library**

As you may or may not be aware, we have a visit from the Mobile Library Service once a fortnight and children are able to borrow books. If you would be interested in your child accessing this service, then please keep an eye out for further details.

## **Other Reading Events:**

- Later in the year, we are aiming to run a sponsored read. Not only is this another way that we can encourage and promote regular reading; it is also an opportunity for us to raise money to buy some lovely new books for school.
- To celebrate World Book Day (3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016) we are planning to have a week of reading related activities, including a book fair, sharing stories and competitions.

Please look out for further details to follow.

We look forward to sharing some fantastic reading and favourite books with you over the coming months.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs K Salter  
English Co-ordinator