



Westacre Infant School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you to let you know what our plans are regarding reading within school. As you are aware, whilst schools are once again open to all children there are guidelines in place to ensure the safety of both staff and children. Such guidelines are impacting on the way we normally do things and as we adapt ourselves to this new normal I thank you for your patience and continued support.

For this half term we have decided that we will not be sending reading books home. Schools are at liberty to adhere to guidelines as best they can and we feel that at this moment in time we do not need to send reading books home. Instead, children will read their home reading books in school.

The following outlines our plans to help children with their reading in school.

Reception

Early reading skills will be taught through our Phonics scheme Read Write Inc. This will begin as soon as we believe the children are settled and ready to begin these lessons.

Year 1

Children are currently having daily phonics lessons, and our full Phonics programme will begin shortly, when initial assessments of children to identify any gaps in knowledge due to lockdown will be complete. Children will read phonetically decodable books in their phonics lessons in line with their current phonemic knowledge and statutory early reading guidelines.

Children will also have opportunities for ERIC time where everyone reads in class for pleasure and Guided Reading lessons will begin after the Autumn half term.

Year 2

Up until half term we will be having phonics lessons four times per week. As the Department for Education has stipulated that all children in Year 2 must take the missed Year 1 phonics check in the second half of Autumn term, our focus will be on revising and consolidating sounds previously taught in Year 1 and catching up on sounds that children missed during lockdown. Children will read phonetically decodable books as part of these lessons.

Guided Reading takes place four times per week which focuses on developing children's reading and comprehension skills.

Children will have opportunities to read for pleasure once per week through ERIC time, where everyone reads in class. This book will be chosen by the child from their class reading corners. Teaching staff will listen to children read during this time.

Each morning, when children arrive at school they will spend 20 minutes independently reading a book from our enhancement reading scheme or completing a reading related activity. During this time, teaching staff will also listen to children read across the week.

Reading Intervention

For those children who we identify as needing extra help and support, we will provide additional reading opportunities outside of phonics and guided reading lessons. These will either be in small groups or one to one.

Guidance for reading at home

Reading at home is important and we would ask for your continued support in getting your child to read. We do understand that for some families however, reading may not happen at home for a variety of reasons. If you are struggling to read with your child at home please let us know and we will support you as much as we can by providing advice and encouraging your child to read at home with you.

Reading at home does not need to be a long time. We would hope for ten minutes every day but only expect children to read three times every week whether it be two pages or ten minutes. Reading does not need to be a story book. It could be a comic or magazine, a non-fiction text or a newspaper.

Reading at home should provide practise for children to consolidate what they have learned in school, therefore, reading materials should not be too difficult for your children to read. Reading should be fun not a chore.

Parent Reading Workshop

As further support to parents, I will be arranging online parent workshops where I can go into more detail about reading at Westacre. In the meantime, if you have any queries or questions about reading in general at our school please do not hesitate to get in touch with me. However, specific concerns about your child's reading progress should be directed to their class teacher.

As guidance is updated regularly, we will continue to update our practices and inform parents of any changes.

Kind Regards,



Mrs Taylor

KS1 and English Lead