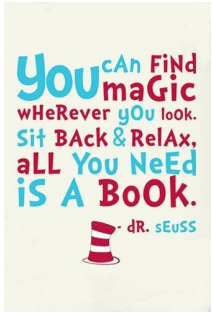
Reading, Reading, Reading!

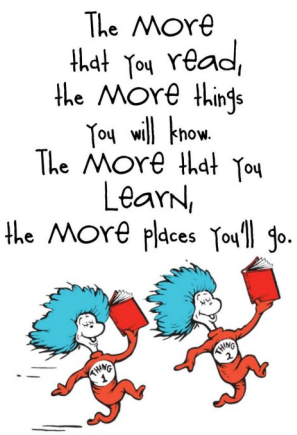


This year at College Road, we are determined to ensure that all children are making progress with their reading skills and learning to love reading ANYTHING!

Why is it vital that your child learns to read well?

*Here are some snippets from extensive research by The Reading Agency into why reading is so important **for all ages**.*

Reading for pleasure is more important for children's cognitive development than their parents' level of education and is a more powerful factor in life achievement than socio-economic background.



Statistics from 2014 show that one in five children in England cannot read well by the age of 11.

16-year-olds who choose to read books for pleasure outside of school are more likely to secure managerial or professional jobs in later life.

Studies have shown that those who read for pleasure have higher levels of self-esteem and a greater ability to cope with difficult situations. Reading for pleasure was also associated with better sleeping patterns.

If you click on this link, you can find out about all the benefits of learning to read and reading for pleasure for both children and adults. https://readingagency.org.uk/about/impact/002-reading-facts-1/

What are we doing about reading in school?

We have reorganised the way we give children reading books while they are learning phonics through the 'Read Write Inc.' programme. They will bring home at least one book that is completely linked to the phonemes (sounds) they have already learnt and they are encouraged to read it multiple times in order to gain **fluency** and begin to recognise the phonemes within words immediately. They are taught to keep practising reading the phonemes outside words e.g. 'oi', 'ay', igh' so that they become super speedy at recognising them. We also teach them to recognise tricky/red words, which cannot be phonically decoded, e.g. 'the', 'have', 'to'. 'little'. We do this by practising reading them in lots of different situations, reading them in funny voices or as part of a game.

Once children have learnt all the phonemes and have moved off the Read Write Inc programme, children will be able to read a range of other books that don't rely on phonics and these will support their acquisition of sight vocabulary.

After that, children should be fluent readers and have a huge array of words they can read at a glance and will move onto 'Free Reading' books.

Alongside all these stages, teachers will also be working on the other important skills of reading such as inference and deduction and understanding the layout and purpose of texts.

We think that exposing children to a wide range of quality books is vital in giving them a rounded experience and hopefully imbue them with a love of stories.

In every year group, we have chosen specific texts to share with the children and these are often harder than they would be able to read independently. This is with the aim of ensuring that children are exposed to high-level vocabulary that they can then engage with and eventually use in their own writing and speech.

What can you do to help your child with their reading?



Listen to your child read <u>AT LEAST 3 TIMES A WEEK</u>. This is a bare minimum and really, for children to make expected progress in reading, they should read <u>every day</u> at home.

- **For older children, who are Free Readers, ensure that they read independently for at least 15 minutes per day and every now and again ask them to read aloud to you.**
- **Share books with your child – show them that reading can be a fun experience.**
- **Ask your child questions about their reading book or the book you are sharing —there are lots of example questions in their Reading Diary.**
- **Join a local library (they will open again soon) and make it a weekly family trip that is completely free.**



Some people may be thinking that it is just the school's responsibility to teach a child to read. However, consider this: you can read with your child 1:1 for 15 minutes a day at home, that's 1 hour and 45 minutes a week. A teacher has 30 children in a class and cannot possibly dedicate that much 1:1 reading time to each child.

You are absolutely essential in ensuring that your child learns to read fluently and therefore goes on to reap the benefits through the rest of their education.

<u>'Starbooks' Readers</u>

As you know, we are restarting 'Starbooks' Readers this term, with a twist!
Each week, every class will be part of a school-wide competition to see which class can read the most. Every time your child reads for at least 15 minutes at home, and you sign your child's reading diary, will be counted towards the class-reading total.
Each week, the class which has read the most will win hot chocolate and a biscuit to enjoy with a special story time.
Help your child's class to win by making sure they read as often as possible and **<u>signing their book</u>**!