



## OUR LADY & ST THOMAS RCVA PRIMARY SCHOOL



### How Will Reading Look during the School Year 2020-21

#### **Information for Parents**

During this school year, things are looking very different at OLST in terms of reading. There are no lovely cosy reading areas in the classrooms as we cannot use soft furnishings, children cannot complete their Guided Reading sessions in groups as previously and most obvious of all, they have not been able to bring home reading books.

This information leaflet is to let you know how we will be ensuring that your child is still reading and still enjoying the written word. It will let you know what is happening in class, what the development of Reading will look like if we have to move to remote learning and how we are going to begin sending Reading Books home in a safe and controlled way.

Your children will have two readers - their scheme book and one that they have chosen to read for pleasure. One will be for home and one for school.

#### **Reading in School**

Despite there being no reading areas in classrooms for the children to access, there are still books - lots of books! We have found that a perfect time for reading is when we are all having to spend lots of time washing our hands numerous times a day! For many children, reading is their number one choice during this time.

This is also the time when staff will be hearing your child read their Reading scheme book. Your child will be heard at least once a week if not more by an adult and will also read independently every day.

Reading scheme books will ONLY be read in school - children will record their own progress and books can be changed freely without having to quarantine them as they are used only by children in the same bubble.

In Guided Reading sessions, children are directly taught the skills of decoding and making sense of the written word. In the past, these sessions have been delivered in ability based groups. For now, they will be delivered as whole class sessions led by teachers. This method has been used in Y6 for the last two years and our usual high standards have continued to be maintained and indeed, exceeded.

#### **Reading at Home**

We do not have enough Reading Scheme books to send home with every child as books have to be quarantined for 72 hours upon their return. Therefore, we propose to send home the book that a child has picked from their classroom library to read for pleasure. This choice has been made with guidance from adults so that selected books match your child's ability and interests and will come home and stay with you until it is finished. It can be returned to school on

Mondays or Fridays and therefore quarantine can be measured and adhered to. This doesn't mean you can't read with your child as you always have done - in fact, we would most strongly encourage you to do so. You may find that it is an easier process as your child has a book that they really want to read! You will not need to record if your child has read as the children will be completing book reviews when they have finished reading them. If you have any comments you wish to make or you have any queries regarding your child's reading material please don't hesitate to message your child's teacher on the class email.

### **What if my child has a book of their own which they wish to read?**

Let them read it! A book that we read for pleasure should always be our own choice and if a child has a new book, then they are going to want to read it. All we ask is that you let your child's teacher know so that they can record it on the child's record sheet. We would also encourage the use of electronic reading devices (there are some very good magazines for children online) and comics - reading is reading and whatever captures a child's interest is good. A mix of all these reading materials is of course, the best way forward.

### **What happens if we have to move to Remote Learning?**

If the worst happens and we have to move to remote learning, this will not be a problem for the teaching of reading skills, as class teachers rewrote their schemes of work over the Summer so that they could be taught face to face in the classroom or remotely with a few small adaptations. By half term, the children will all know how to use Google classroom and how to access documents on it. Comprehension exercises, text extracts, recordings of songs and images provide skills development and can all be uploaded easily to access at home. Children will be expected to submit work just as they would in the classroom and teachers will mark work and track progress just as they would in school. Children can read any book at home to practise reading and there are a wide range of websites offering free access to books for children.

Finally.....

There is no greater pleasure than to pick up a book and escape to another world! We have always prided ourselves here at OLST on not just teaching our children the mechanics of reading but also the ability to see the pleasure and joy that reading a book can bring. Just because we cannot teach those skills as we always have does not mean that they won't be taught at all: staff will continue to celebrate reading, will continue to use fantastic texts as a stimulus for other curriculum areas and will continue to teach reading skills in Guided Reading sessions. We know that with your support, our children will continue to develop as confident and articulate readers who love books as much as we do!

If you have any queries, please contact your child's class teacher on the class email.

Thank you.

Mrs Fulton.

Subject Lead for Reading.

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