

Reading Matters



JRS Expectations for Reading

- Children should read at home for at least 10 minutes every day.
- Parents should record the date, book title and a comment in their child's reading record (our older pupils can do this themselves). Please feel free to complete other sections or the reading record if you would like.
- Books and reading records should travel to and from school daily (or as directed by your child's teacher) in the plastic bag provided.

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are no doubt aware, reading regularly is hugely beneficial at all stages of learning to read.

Infants

Reading regularly aids the development of fluency for early readers – a key reading skill we hope for our pupils to master by the end of their time in the infants. As all of our Rankin Readers in the colour bands pink to orange are 'phonetically decodable', it also provides an invaluable opportunity to practise and apply the phonics being learnt.

Juniors

As children become fluent and proficient readers, reading regularly helps in exposing them to different texts which allows them to practise answering a range of comprehension questions to show their understanding of the text. This is the main focus of reading at the juniors. Reading regularly also means that children are seeing different ideas and models for their own writing. We use the term 'magpie' at school to mean 'stealing' shiny ideas from models of writing to use in our own writing.

We appreciate that returning to our 'normal' routines this year has been a challenge. As we welcome more sunny days (hopefully!) and longer lighter evenings, our children will no doubt be enjoying more time playing outside – and rightly so. We ask that our families try and continue to set a little time aside to read each day. As well as children reading their school reading book, this might be sharing other books and also reading to your children. The benefits of reading stories to children have been widely researched and found to be immense and go way beyond helping with literacy skills. The Literacy Trust has this to say about it:

It has astonishing benefits for children: comfort and reassurance, confidence and security, relaxation, 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.

John Rankin Schools have a long history of loving books and reading and we are keen for this to continue. You may have seen on Facebook that we are working on building a Literature Spine this year across the school. Look out for news of further reading developments later this term, including the annual Summer Reading Challenge that our local libraries run.

As ever, we are very grateful for your support with your child's learning as we continue work together. We would like to leave you with this infographic from Scholastic, which is certainly food for thought. If you have any further questions, please speak to your child's teacher or to one of the English Hub, whose roles are outlined below.



Kind regards,

JRS English Hub

Infant English Lead: Miss Sophie White

Junior English Lead: Mrs Hannah Murphy

Phonics Lead: Mr Phil Taplin

Library Lead: Mrs Antonia McGall (supported by Mrs Louise Morse)