A week of reading for Cubs and Kittens

Dear parents/carers,

The intention of this letter is to give you an overview of reading in Foundation Stage and how you can support your child with learning to read at home.

Your child will learn phonics every day in school, this will form part of how they learn to read and write. Whilst phonics is important for learning to read, it is also key for children to learn words by sight and build up fluency and their ability to comprehend any text they read. In order to develop these reading behaviours your child will have access to various books over the period of a week. It's important to understand that it is completely acceptable for your child to read the same book again and again because familiar books are comforting and will build confidence, resilience and fluency.

At Pendragon there is an expectation for children to read a minimum of three times a week at home. Your child will be able to keep track of their progress by reading their way to a Bronze Award (read for at least 5 minutes 3 times a week) then a Silver Award (read for at least 10 minutes 3 times a week) and then a Gold Award (read for 15 minutes 3 times a week). We would like you to support your child's endeavours by commenting in their reading record every time they read. Class teachers will continue to track the books read at home so please record when your child has read as well as colouring a dragon in the back of their reading record. **We will not** be writing comments in the reading record but your child will show this to us every day for monitoring. Reading certificates will be awarded once your child meets the target met on their dragon sheet eight times.

A typical reading week will work as follows:

Every Monday (from 13th September)
Your child will bring a reading scheme book home to read with you. Initially these may not have any words or some will have few. These books are to be shared at home to support your child with the early stages of reading. Using the pictures to talk about characters, think about what and why something is happening, predicting what might happen next and discussing vocabulary are all fundamental skills when learning to read. This book must be discussed and read more than once over a period of three days and will be handed back into school every Friday. Prompts for how to support with this can be found at the front of the reading record.

Friday (from 24th September)
Your child will choose a 'Sharing book' from our Foundation Stage sharing library. They will keep this for one week. You will find a prompt sheet entitled 'Top tips for sharing a book' inside the book your child brings home on Thursday.

Friday (from 1st October)
Your child will have access to more books via Bug Club, an online reading platform. They must choose one book from the selection allocated to them and this can be read over the weekend. You will find the username and password in the back of your child's reading record.

Friday (from 7th October)
Your child will bring home a wallet that contains common high frequency words, some of which will be 'tricky' words. All words must be learnt by sight (not sounding out). New words will be added on a weekly basis.

Please ensure your child carries their water bottle to school and it is not placed in their book bag as a leaking bottle can damage school books.

Any further questions please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher via email.

Thank you for your continued support.

Happy reading
Mrs Willmore