



Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you all had a good Christmas and were not affected too much by the rapid spread of the Omicron variant.

Seesaw

As I have explained previously, I am committed to keeping our schools fully open and we have plans in place to cover staff absence as and when required. Our Outbreak Management Plan remains in place in line with national and local guidance and any sort of closure will be an absolute last resort on the advice of Public Health. Just in case, can you please make sure you have the home learning codes for Seesaw. If you are unsure or have forgotten these, please contact your class teacher who can send out new ones. If your child is absent due to COVID 19, home learning will be sent through Seesaw as before unless you contact the teacher to say that are not well enough.

Reading

Most of you will recall that last January, during lockdown, we purchased the Collins Big Cat e-library as children were unable to have their reading books changed regularly. This was an annual subscription that is now coming to an end. Taking into account feedback from those of you who responded to our homework survey, feedback from parents in other ways and the monitoring of its use by teachers, we have decided not to fully renew this. We will be keeping the KS2 library as this is used in schools for reading catch up and interventions and some of the children in KS2 do enjoy reading using this at home. We will be using the money saved to purchase more physical books across the school, some of which will be arriving shortly. If your child is in KS2 and you wish for more online books to be allocated, please contact your class teacher who will be only too happy to do so.

Thank you to all of you who take the time to read regularly with your children at home. Reading with and to your child is undeniably the most important thing that you can do at home to help them to make progress across the curriculum, especially in Reception and KS1 as stated below.

Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP, Minister of State for School Standards

“Over the last two decades, there has been a deepening recognition of the fundamental importance of improving reading standards on a child’s future academic achievement, wellbeing and success in life. The reading and writing of Standard English, alongside proficient language development, is the key to unlocking the rest of the academic curriculum. Pupils who struggle to read struggle in all subjects and the wonders of a knowledge-rich curriculum passes them by unread. Fluency of reading is also a key indicator for future success in further education, higher education and employment.” ***The Reading Framework - Teaching the Foundations of Literacy, July 2021***

If you could also write in and sign your child’s reading diary, that will also act as an extra line of communication between you and the class teacher. As always, thank you for your continued support with this.



Researchers in the United States who had looked at the impact of parents reading with their children quoted the following figures in a news release about their findings: Here’s how many words children would have heard by the time they were 5 years old: Never read to, 4,662 words; 1–2 times per week, 63,570 words; 3–5 times per week, 169,520 words; daily, 296,660 words; and five books a day, 1,483,300 words.

Please click on the links below for some useful tips about reading with your child at home
<https://www.pearson.com/uk/learners/primary-parents/learn-at-home/help-your-child-to-enjoy-reading/top-10-tips-to-help-children-enjoy-reading.html>
<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/reading-tips/>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/>

Becoming the person God made me to be: living, learning, loving.

“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made” Psalm 139:14

