



WHITMORE PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Halford Lane
Coventry CV6 2HG

Monday 12th September 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

Reading At Home

Despite all of the hard work and effort that teachers put into the teaching of reading, our Year 6 SATs results this year were extremely disappointing with only 55% of pupils achieving the expected standard. **Reading is an essential life skill that will affect your child's achievement in all other subjects and their future success.**

We were very disappointed with these results so we made sure we sought the advice of schools that are similar to ourselves who achieved a higher standard. The most remarkable difference was the number of times **individual pupils read at home** (At least 4 or more times a week). The Head teachers we talked to said reading at home, was in their opinion, the singular most effective strategy for raising reading standards at their schools. Therefore we have decided to adopt some of their practice by ensuring that all pupils read at home **at least 3 times a week**. The class with the most pupils reading at home will be rewarded with an additional playtime and a treat for winning each week. Children in the winning class who do not read at home, will not be afforded this treat.

We are asking you to continue to write in the reading diary whenever your child reads at home as this is our only way of recording reading at home for the rewards. Remember everything that your child reads counts – whether it is their reading book, a library book, a book, magazine or comic from home. We will discuss with your child what they have enjoyed about what they have read. Another change to our reading programme is that teachers will no longer be recording when they hear children read in their home/school diaries. We are replacing the one to one reading once a fortnight to a weekly group reading lesson which studies show to be more effective on raising standards.

The Head teachers also had meetings with parents who **failed to hear their child read** to try and support them in hearing their child read. We will adopt this practice and will also adopt the practice of detentions at break time or lunchtime for pupils who **fail to read at home**.

We have also spent a large amount of money on resources to engage pupils and ensure they enjoy their reading lessons. We have taken on additional teaching staff to support extra group reading in the afternoons.

We have had a lot of success with our Bronze, Silver and Gold Reading Awards scheme for our Accelerated Reader programme and would like to thank all of the families who support this by ensure that their children are reading regularly at home. We will continue with this reward and the prize of a beautiful book.

Thank you in anticipation for your support.

Yours sincerely,

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