



# St. Werburgh's C. E. Primary School

*Love to learn, Love God, Love one another*

25 September 2020

Dear parent/carer,

We hope that you are well and have not been getting too chilly as the weather has begun to change this week.

## **Reading Books**

Reading is an absolutely essential skill which opens so many doors in children's lives. With development and support at school and at home, reading can make a huge impact on many areas of children's lives. Reading a variety of books by a wide range of authors which includes fiction, non-fiction, poetry and more, is highly beneficial for your child. The importance of listening to your child read and discussing the text with them is significant, as it boosts their knowledge and understanding of many aspects of the world, builds their imagination, and supports them in all areas of the curriculum and beyond. Also, as you know, those cherished moments of sharing a book or story with loved ones are very special.

Next week, to continue to share our love of reading, we will be once again sending reading books home. To reduce risk by limiting the movement of things between home and school, the children will have two reading books. One will be kept in school and will be used to listen to the children read, and the other will be a book to read at home.

As any books returned to school will be kept for 72 hours before they are issued to any other children, we will be asking that reading books are only returned to school on Fridays. This will allow the books to be left over the weekend before they are changed early the following week.

## ***EYFS and Key Stage 1***

Many of the younger children will be reading the 'Read, Write Inc.' Book Bag books which are designed to reinforce the teaching of phonics in school. We ask that the children read these books at least three times before they are swapped. This repetition is essential, as it enables the children to build fluency and practise applying their phonics skills to decode unknown words. Once the children are familiar with the book, please take time to discuss the events and the meaning of any new words which the children have come across.

Initially, to reduce risk we will not be sending home reading diaries. Instead, in each book the children bring home, there will be a sheet for you to record comments on your child's reading and then return with the book when it needs changing.

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Additionally, your child may also be given some 'tricky words' (the words that cannot be decoded using phonics strategies) to keep at home and practise, in order to help them to recognise and read these on sight.

## **Key Stage 2**

Rather than a reading diary being sent forwards and backwards between school and home, to reduce risk, once the children have finished their reading books, we will be asking them to complete a book review based upon what they have just read. This will allow them to consider the text more, deepen their understanding and help with discussions with parent/carers/ grandparents etc about what they have read and how well they understood this. If you wish to make comments on your child's reading, there is a parental/carer comments section on the back of the sheet. Please can these sheets then be returned into school with the reading book.

## **Homework**

From Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September, many of the children will start to receive homework. As before, the children will be set one piece of work which consolidates their learning in school. However, under our new control measures, instead of homework books, each child will be given a sheet in a plastic folder to transport this backwards and forwards between school and home. We ask their completed homework is returned to school, in the folder, the following Friday. These sheets will then be kept in the box for 72 hours before being marked.

## **Spelling**

Initially, the children's home spellings may focus on spelling 'tricky words' or 'Common Exception Words'. These are words that the children use all the time in their writing and often do not follow usual spelling patterns of the English language. The children will bring home a selection of these words to be practised over 3 weeks. At the end of the 3 weeks, the children will be tested on these words.

This will reinforce the ongoing teaching that is taking place in school and will support the children in not only spelling these words when writing independently, but also in reading them when coming across them in their book.

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As these are unprecedented times for us all, many thanks for your support and understanding of how things may be a little different this term. Our Reception class will gradually begin to bring things home as they continue their journey as little learners. As we are now increasingly used to, things may, of course, change as we move forwards and we continue to work together to provide learning opportunities for the children. All work which you can complete with your child at home makes a difference in their education.

Thanks again for the support and have a lovely weekend.

The St. Werburgh's team

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