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I really love reading to my Mum and Dad because it's fun! (Y2)

It's very important to keep reading because you learn new things. (Y6)

Reading is fun and you can share with your parents how good you are getting. (Y3)

Autumn Term Reading Challenge

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the successes of our Reading Challenges last year, we are organising another challenge this term. Again the challenge will run for half a term. There are 7 weeks before the half term holidays and we are asking pupils to work towards achieving a reading sticker in 5 of these weeks.

As previously, to achieve a weekly sticker on their book mark children must read at least **3 times in that week with parent/carer's signatures in the reading record book** to show this. Record books will be checked each week and children rewarded with stickers.

Alternatively, children could produce **a reading response** instead of 3 signatures from their parent/carer. A reading response could be: a book review, a character description, a letter written to the author sharing their thoughts on the book, a fact file about what they learnt from the book, new words they have come across in the book and what these words mean or even a poster recommending the book to friends. Taking part in these responses shows that your child has understood what they have read; can articulate their thoughts and opinions; and show that, now that they have actually *learnt to read*, their reading skills are progressing such that they are *learning from what they read*.

We plan to ask pupils what they suggest as rewards again this term, which may include 'pop-up' rewards in our bubbles! We will of course keep you updated on progress. If you have any queries or questions, please ask your child's class teacher in the first instance. Please view the information on the reverse side of this letter which clearly shows how important you are in your child's reading journey.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Jayne Smith
English & KS1 Lead

COVID Safe

In order to ensure that the books your children are bringing home are clean and safe, we have designated bookshelves for choosing books from. When children return books these are kept for a 72-hour period in separate baskets, before they are returned to the shelves again. In school pupil's books and record books are kept in their individual trays.

The following information is taken from The Reading Agency research 2020:

Website: <https://readingagency.org.uk/about/impact/002-reading-facts-1/>

Reading facts

Skills and Learning

- Reading for pleasure is more important for children's cognitive development than their parents' level of education and is a more powerful factor in life achievement than socio-economic background.
- Having books in the home is associated with both reading enjoyment and confidence. Children who report having many books in their home, consider themselves to be 'confident readers' because of this. They are also more likely to enjoy reading.
- Children who read books often, at age 10; and more than once a week, at age 16, gain higher results in maths, vocabulary and spelling tests at age 16 than those who read less regularly.

Health & Wellbeing

- Studies have shown that those who read for pleasure have higher levels of self-esteem and a greater ability to cope with difficult situations.
- Reading for pleasure was also associated with better sleeping patterns.
- Children with reading difficulties are at greater risk of developing mental health problems later in life, including depression, anxiety, behavioural problems, anger and aggression.