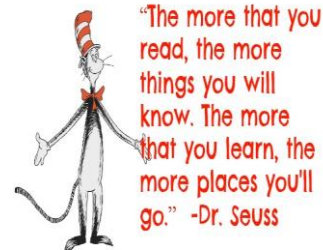




# Congerstone Primary School

## Reading



At Congerstone, we aim to;

- foster a love of reading and encourage children to read a range of stories, poems and non-fiction both at school and at home.
- ensure all children become skilled and fluent readers through high quality and engaging teaching sessions, which also encourage a love of reading for pleasure.

*Evidence suggests children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures.*

Our children in the early stages of learning to read focus on two key elements – decoding words using phonics and comprehension of what is read to them. Our reading scheme books are from Rising Stars Reading Planet and link directly to our phonics scheme 'Rocket Phonics'.

In all year groups, teachers maximise opportunities to apply taught reading skills in English lessons through carefully planned blocks of work based on a key text, which often links to the wider curriculum e.g. In Y5/6; *Good night Mr Tom* as part of a topic looking at the impact of World War 2 on people's lives. In Y1/2 *Croc and Bird* provided useful links to the science curriculum; animals including humans

Children move through the reading scheme based on their phonic knowledge. Children accessing the reading scheme have two books a week;

- a) a phonics book which is for them to practice and apply their phonic knowledge and develop reading fluency.
- b) a book from our *lending library* which is likely to be beyond the child's independent reading ability but aims to develop their love of books through enjoyable shared time listening and developing comprehension skills by discussing the story.

When the teacher feels a child's phonic knowledge is secure and they are able to read confidently, usually in Year 2, children move onto non-phonetic reading scheme books. Children then become 'free readers', usually in Lower KS2, and are able to choose books from the school library or bring books in from home. Once children become independent readers they can make their own comments in their reading diaries.

Key Stage Two pupils who find decoding more difficult are given opportunities to develop their reading through a phonic intervention programme. Some children may need intervention to develop their inference/comprehension skills.

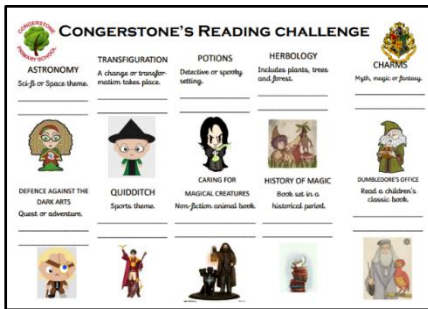
### Home/school Reading

Your child needs your help and support to develop a love of reading for pleasure and we consider regular reading at home as very important

There is a wealth of evidence to say that reading regularly with your child is the single biggest thing you can do to help them at school.

- Each child is issued with a reading record in which to record their reading.
- We talk to children about our expectation to read every day at home, by this we mean at least five times a week.
- Reading with your child should only take 10-15 minutes in KS1 and 15- 20 mins in KS2. They don't need to read the whole book or for it to take any longer.
- Daily reading at KS1 must include your child's phonic reading book from school. Rereading the book develops their fluency and application of phonics. Sharing the *lending library* book and asking questions about what has happened and why will develop their understanding and enjoyment of texts.
- Read with your child at the best time for you and them, in a place where you both feel relaxed and comfortable. Ideally, when you're not tired, rushed or have other distractions.
- Every time your child has read please sign the reading record, you do not need to write a comment. Reading records and books must be returned to school on specified days and they will be checked by school staff weekly.

- In KS2, we expect children to be responsible for recording and talking with parents about their reading. Teachers will check these regularly and it is a vital part of a child's education.



- In EYFS and Keystage 1 children collect *Reading Rockets* and receive certificates
- In KS2 children complete *Congerstone's Reading Challenge* and receive a certificate when they have read a book for every genre.



- At the start of the academic year teachers provide Top Tips for each year group -these are designed to help parents focus on key aspects and ensure children continue to make progress with their reading skills
- School bookbags are available to keep reading books and resources in. We encourage children to value their books and keep them away from water bottles, snack pots, pets and younger siblings at home! We will ask you to make a contribution to the cost if we have to replace books that haven't been looked after.

**What will happen if we don't read regularly at home?**

Our aim is always to work with parents to ensure your child is the 'best they can be' by providing information about how you can support your child, enjoyable books and incentives that make reading a regular habit and pleasurable activity. We're going to work together as a school to make sure our expectations around reading are consistent across all year groups. The following list details how we can support you and your child further;



1. Staff check and make a record of the number of times per week children in KS1 read as part of Reading Rockets.
2. Staff in KS2 check how many times children have read weekly.
3. Staff in your child's class will send you a reminder if there is no evidence of reading at home.
4. Staff from the class may give you a call to see if they can offer support and advice.
5. We ask to meet in school with the class teacher.
6. We would ask you to attend a meeting with Mrs Ruff.

**Frequently asked questions**

**Q – My child refuses to read at home?**

A – Let us know, we can talk to your child and help to find out why this is a problem.

**Q – I don't have time to fit this in?**

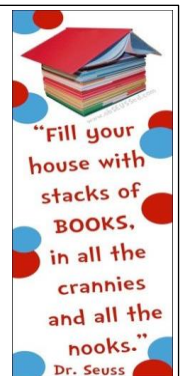
A – We understand that you are all incredibly busy but feel that 15 minutes of reading together five times a week is achievable for families.

**Q – What happens if something happens at home and we can't manage it one week?**

A – We completely understand that this will happen occasionally, simply write a note in the reading record or speak to one of the adults in your child's class.

**Q – Why do I have to sign the reading record when my child reads everyday anyway?**

A – We do have to have a system in place for tracking when children have read and a signature is the quickest way for this to happen.



Thank you for taking the time to read this information. If you have any questions or would like further advice about reading with your child please contact us via the school office.

***Reading is the one ability that once set in motion, has the ability to feed itself, grow exponentially and provide a basis from which possibilities are limitless.***

Michael Murpurgo