



OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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Dear parents and carers

Response to reading questionnaire at parent teacher meetings in October.

Thank you for your responses to the reading questionnaire which we left out on top of your child's books during the last parent teacher meetings. The response gave a good insight to your views of reading within our school. Parents provided comments about how we might improve and continue to promote the love of reading.

Here is a summary of the key points:

- 80% agreed that reading ribbons motivate their child to progress through the book bands
- 92% of parents read daily or every few days with their child
- The four most popular genres which parents feel their child likes to read are: fiction, non-fiction, magazines/comics and picture books
- 62 (majority) parents strongly agreed that they know which books to buy/choose for their child
- 40 (majority) parents strongly agreed that their child enjoys visiting the library
- Most parents said their child/children enjoy reading
- There were repeated comments from parents who said reading is important for learning, imagination, general knowledge, academic success as well as being an important part of family life and they are a great break from technology devices!
- There were also lots of great suggestions about why reading might not be enjoyed so much by children. Some suggestions were; children are tired after school, lack of time due to work commitments or lots of extra-curricular activities, hard to get children away from technology and even though their child is a good reader they lack interest.

As a school we would like to encourage parents to hear their child read for ten minutes at least four times a week as a minimum. This expectation is to ensure your child practices reading skills regularly in order to become fluent readers and speedy information finders.

Here is a list of what we do in school to promote and support reading with your child:

- Reading workshops - this is a carousel of reading activities. Classes are in groups and children complete a different activity each day. For example: guided reading with teachers or teaching assistants to develop comprehension skills, independent reading, quizzes or comprehension questions to answer about a text, pre-reading texts which they will revisit during guided sessions with the teacher.



- Book bands are popular in KS1 and this is proving to be a great motivator for children's ambition to move up through the bands. Children are proving to make faster progress each year and the introduction of banded picture books has increased children's interest when choosing their own books.
- All children are encouraged to change their books (every day in KS1, less often in KS2 due to children reading novels etc.). There is always opportunity for children to browse and choose new books from the library, book fairs, from their book banded boxes or from their classroom bookshelves. The bring and buy book sales have been a huge success in allowing children to have the freedom to browse a range of books.
- Children from all age ranges thrive on our book sharing opportunities where they can buddy up with different classes, often from different key stages.
- Reading lists for your child's year group are on the website for you to peruse and refer to when choosing appropriate books for age ranges.
- Annual cake sales are held by each class and all funds are used by the children who choose new books for their classrooms.
- Reading happens daily in each class! Teachers and teaching assistants share their love of reading by spending five minutes on a class novel or another genre.

In response to parents' comments, here is what we will implement in order to promote the love of reading for your child/children:

- We will be including links to websites which suggest authors and books for your child to read according to their age range. Please look out for these on the next topic web as you will be able to find books linked to your child's topic. Sometimes, we like to keep certain titles as a secret in order to keep the element of surprise for children when we start to teach around a certain text. Therefore, specific texts linked to topics will not be provided.
- In KS1, we understand that children do forget to change their books and it must be frustrating to read the same books lots of times. In addition to daily reminders, we will also include time within reading workshop sessions to ensure that children change their books during this time. Reading workshop happens daily.
- From parents' responses, it clear that lots of children enjoy magazines and comics. We will investigate appropriate examples of this genre and trial some with the view to increasing the breadth of reading material within classrooms for children to enjoy.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire as it helps us to understand your views and to keep you informed of our work at Ducklington CE Primary School.

Your sincerely

Helen King

English team coordinator