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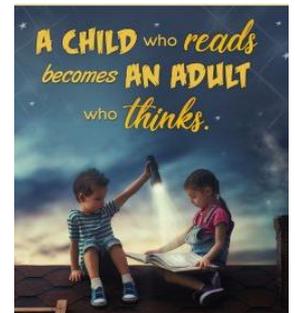
Headteacher: Mr Simon Beahan

Monday 19 September 2022

The Importance of Reading

Dear parents and carers

Research shows that learning to read is directly linked to children's success at school and beyond. It also shows that those who read regularly and for longer dramatically increase the number of words they are introduced to. This in turn impacts on their success across the whole curriculum as they know and understand more.



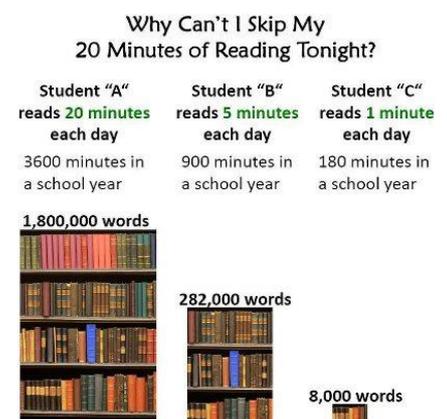
What we do in school:

- ✓ **Prioritise reading** – we teach phonics, how to read and the skills of reading every single day. We weave reading into almost every aspect of our curriculum. We listen to all of our children read – even in Key Stage 2 Younger children and those who require more support are listened to more regularly.
- ✓ **We promote a love of reading** – we read every day to our children. We share quality books and stories through our topic areas and share the sheer joy that comes from reading a great book. We give our children time to read a variety of texts – both together and independently.
- ✓ **Use an approved programme of phonics teaching to ensure good progress** – From September 2022, we are using the 'Twinkl' an approved Department for Education phonics programme to teach early reading. <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/twinkl-phonics/level-2-twinkl-phonics> We have previously used Bug Club Phonics.
- ✓ **Books match sounds** – our books, especially our early years and Key Stage 1 books, are banded which ensured the children are reading books which matches the sounds they are being taught and know. This is particularly important when children are still learning phonics. We expect a child to read a book with about 95% accuracy if they are reading by themselves. Less than that and it's likely that they are missing out, or misreading too many words for them to make sense of the story.
- ✓ **Teach phonics from the start** – our children start to read in Reception.
- ✓ **Catch up quickly** – we aim to support pupils who fall behind.
- ✓ **Early reading experts** – our staff are trained to help every child learn to read.

What you can do at home:

The relationship between school reading and home reading is vital. It is never too early to start sharing books with your child. Learning to read is about listening and understanding as well as working out print. When children hear stories, they are exposed to a rich and wide vocabulary. This helps them build their own vocabulary and improve their understanding when they listen, which is vital as they start to read. Some of the things that you can do include:

- ✓ **Read aloud to your child** – share book, read a bed time story as part of your night time routine, talk about the words and pictures and share ideas about the book.
- ✓ **Read yourself** - Children who see adults reading, and enjoying reading, are much more likely to want to read themselves.



- ✓ **Make sure your child is surrounded by books** - You don't need hundreds of books at home and you don't need to spend lots of money! There are some amazing good value books. Visit a local library or visit the school library to choose them together.
- ✓ **Talk to your child** - Spend time with them, doing simple reading activities (playing, cooking, making something or playing a game). As you talk about what you're doing, you are helping them to learn new words. Later, when they see words written down, they have already heard them and know what they mean.

For further information about reading and phonics in the Early Years please visit the school website at: <http://www.curbarprimary.co.uk/reading-in-the-early-years/>

For further information about reading and reading at home, please visit the school website at: <http://www.curbarprimary.co.uk/reading/>

These pages contain further information, guidance and useful links.

So, what's new? Why this letter?

Our Library – We have a wonderful school library. Our children visit each week to select a book. We ask that they return the books to be able to take another book.

Come and join us! - We are now inviting parents to visit the library with their children to enjoy the amazing books we have. You are welcome to go straight up **any day after school from 3:15 – 3:30pm to choose something together**. Please only choose **one book per child** and ensure you return any other books you have at home so other children can enjoy them. You are welcome to sit down, relax and enjoy a book in our library!



Reading Records – Please ensure your child brings their reading record and reading book to school **every day**. This way we can record when we have read with your child. Please make a small note when you read with your child at home too. This doesn't have to be long but is a good way of regularly communicating with the class teacher about your child's progress.

Reading Together Session – Friday 14 October 2022– 2:45 – 3:05pm. You are invited to come into school and share the joy of reading with your child. That's' it – that simple! These will run every month.

Phonics Session for parents – You are welcome to join us for a **'Phonics and Early Reading' session for parents on Tuesday 4 October at 4:30pm**. This is aimed at Reception and Key Stage 1 parents. This will give you a really good idea of how we teach your child phonics so you can support more readily at home. We will also sign post you to useful resources.

Good quality second hand books – please feel to donate any good quality second hand books to the school office. We will leave these out for children to enjoy at breaks and lunchtime.

Please do get in touch if you have any questions about reading at Curbar.

Kind regards

Simon Beahan
Executive Headteacher