



3 May 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

### Reading with your child at home

#### 'Learn to Read' books

At Parkside, your child is assessed on their reading ability within the **READ WRITE INC (RWI)** programme firstly, and then on the **PM BENCHMARKING** programme until they are free readers. These assessments give your child a coloured book band which they are reading within, and you may already be familiar with the bands in relation to the books that they bring home.

These assessments help teachers to ensure that your child is reading a carefully and correctly pitched book which we call our "**Learn to Read**" book.

This '**Learn to Read**' book is specifically aimed at your child's level of development in reading and your child will be able to read this to you at home.

To help you support your child to read at home, you will also now have a **coloured bookmark**, which matches the colour of their book.

This bookmark has the targets that your child is working through on one side, and some questions to support their understanding of the book on the other side.

They look something like this:

**Gold**

**My Reading Targets**

- \* I always correct myself.
- \* I am fluent when I read aloud.
- \* I read unknown words confidently.
- \* I can read up to 90 words a minute.
- \* I express question marks and exclamation marks when I read aloud.
- \* I express commas in a list when I read aloud.
- \* I take note of apostrophes when I read aloud.
- \* I read longer texts at a time.

**Gold**

**Questions to ask**

- \* What do you think the book is going to be about using the cover, blurb and title?
- \* Locate information from the contents pages, indexes, labelled diagrams and charts.
- \* Explain how information is organised in non-fiction texts.
- \* Who, what, where, when, why or how?
- \* Find where you found the answers.
- \* Retell the main events of the story in the correct order.
- \* Explain what the text is about.
- \* What do you think about the characters in the book?
- \* Which words in the book make you think that?
- \* Which words or phrases are your favourite?
- \* What do you think will happen next?
- \* How does the book relate to your life or someone else's?
- \* What is your opinion of the book?
- \* Do you like it or dislike it?
- \* What are your reasons?

Cont./



When your child reads with an adult at school, the adult will now write in your child's reading record using the following system:



Star: Something they have done particularly well in that reading session



Next Step: This will be a target your child is working on taken straight from the bookmark your child has.

When you read with your child at home, we are now asking that you work on the target given by the adult and give feedback to school following the same system alongside the bookmark.

We understand that sometimes the **“Learn to Read”** book given can seem too easy for your child, or they can read it quickly and you feel they need another before the week is out. In this case, please continue to encourage your child for their fantastic reading, but keep rereading the book focussing heavily on asking the questions while they are reading. This will ensure that your child is developing their understanding of a book as well as their ability to read it, and ensure they progress to the next band more quickly.

*In the next couple of weeks , we will be sending some video links to give you information about how school staff listen to children reading. This information will support you in listening to your child reading at home.*

### **‘Love to Read’ book**

We also understand that you and your child may want to read lots of other books, and we absolutely encourage you to do so. We call these books our **“Love to Read”** books.

These may be books chosen from our shelves in school, from the library or from your own home. They may be books which are above your child's reading ability, but they enjoy reading them (E.g. Harry Potter or a factual book) or you enjoy reading to them (E.g. Fairytales or Roald Dahl).

Please take as much opportunity as possible to share your child's **“Love to Read”** books at home and encourage them to enjoy them, alongside practising their reading skills with their **“Learn to Read”** book.

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### **Rewards for pupils**

As before, if your child reads at home **3 or more times** a week, and this is evidenced in their reading record, your child will receive a raffle ticket. This raffle ticket will be entered into a draw to **win a prize at the end of the week**. If your child reads **3 or more times a week, every week** during a half term, they will be given a Golden Ticket and entered into the end of half term raffle. Children who consistently read **3 times every week throughout the school year** will receive a special prize and reward at the end of the school year.

Thank you for your ongoing co-operation with this and we look forward to sharing some more guidance over the coming weeks. If you have any questions regarding this please contact your child's class teacher.

Kind Regards

The staff at Parkside

