Supporting Your Child's Reading Journey

Reading is one of the most important skills a child will ever learn. At Estfeld, we believe that teaching children *how* to read is just the beginning; our real aim is to inspire them to develop a lifelong love of reading and discover the enjoyment, excitement and opportunities that books can bring.

Throughout school, we celebrate reading in lots of different ways and encourage children to take part in a variety of activities that help develop their reading skills, confidence and enjoyment of books.

However, we know that reading doesn't just happen in school. Parents and carers play a hugely important role in supporting children's reading development at home, and we really value the time and encouragement you give your child. We want to make reading at home as enjoyable and rewarding as possible, so we are introducing a couple of changes to help support you and your child on their reading journey.

1. Introducing our 'Reading Star'! ★

From this week, we will be introducing a *Reading Star* stamp in reading records across the school. Children will receive a Reading Star stamp in their reading record each week if they have read at home at least **three times during that week**.

Although we encourage children to read a little every day, we completely appreciate that family life can be busy and that finding time to read every evening isn't always easy. Our aim is to make reading achievable and enjoyable for everyone. Reading at least three times a week provides children with valuable opportunities to practise, build confidence and develop the skills they need to become successful, independent readers.

2. Making the most of reading together

At the front of your child's reading record, you will find a selection of questions designed to help develop their understanding of the books they read.

- In **KS1**, these are the *Pawsome Gang* questions.
- In **KS2**, these are the *VIPERS* questions.

These questions focus on the key skills children need to develop their reading comprehension and understanding.

When we hear your child read in school, we will ask them one of these questions and date and initial it in their reading record to show which question has been explored.

We would love you to do the same at home! When listening to your child read, please choose one of the questions to discuss together and then date and initial it in their reading record.

This is a wonderful opportunity to talk about the books your child is reading, explore their thoughts and opinions, make predictions and encourage them to think more deeply about what they have read. Most importantly, it can help make reading together an enjoyable experience rather than simply listening to your child read the words on the page.

A little time spent reading together can make a big difference!

Reading opens the door to countless learning opportunities. It helps children develop their language, imagination, creativity and understanding of the world around them, as well as supporting their confidence and wellbeing.

Thank you for the important part you play in your child's reading journey. By working together, we can help every child develop the skills, confidence and, most importantly, the love of reading that will stay with them for life.

If you have any questions or would like any further support with reading at home, please don't hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.

Happy reading!