



## Winwick CE Primary School

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15<sup>th</sup> March 2021

### READING AT HOME: READING PLUS Key Stage 2 & Year 2

Dear Parents/Carers,

As a school, we put great value on reading; it has always been a key school priority and this year is no different. At the beginning of the academic year, we sent a letter out to give you an overview about Reading Plus, the online reading tool that we introduced during the very first lockdown to support the children with their reading and also explained how we have amended our home reading system, with Reading Plus now being the main focus for supporting reading at home.

From September, the children have not been taking individual reading books between home and school, instead our children in Key Stage 2 children have been using the online reading tool, Reading Plus, which is also now being phased out across Year 2 for those pupils who are ready for this stage of learning. The reason for this is to limit the number of items being moved between home and school to help to limit the potential spread of Covid-19.

#### How does it work?

Since September, the children have been accessing Reading Plus at home and have also been doing work with this in school. Children all have individual login details, copies of which were sent home in September in their ICT Passports. We advise that you find a quiet space for your child to use the computer to access Reading Plus; some of the activities have audio, so we would advise that you get a set of headphones that your child can use at home to use with their device.

At the beginning of the year, the children were set an initial assessment on Reading Plus which identified their starting point for the new academic year. Reading Plus has then targeted individual activities which aim to develop the reading skills that your child would benefit from working on. Later this term, we will do an interim assessment with the children that will note another formal check point and then there will be a further assessment checkpoint towards the end of the year ready for their transition into the next year group.

Children have been set 4 activities on Reading Plus that they should complete at home each week; 2 comprehension sessions, 1 vocabulary session and 1 visual skills session. In addition to this, children should also spend some time reading for enjoyment. For children in Year 2, this may vary slightly with less Reading Plus sessions.

The evidence has shown that Reading Plus supports children to make progress with their reading and one key element of Reading Plus links to children's reading fluency and the speed at which they are reading. At Winwick CE Primary, our children are generally very skilled with their ability to read, but it is their reading speed which can sometimes not be at the level needed to support them to achieve their full potential within this. While we do not believe that we should just solely focus on children's performance in tests, we do need to ensure that our children are in the best position possible to show their capabilities and are also ready for when they eventually transition into high school and are all reading at the expectation for their age group (as a minimum); ensuring that their reading speed is at the right level is crucial if we are to ensure that our children are ready for their next steps. This is why it is so important that the children engage with their Reading Plus activities, even if the activity for that session is a genre that may not be their 'favourite' to read.

Another key element of Reading Plus is that it provides children with a wide 'diet' for reading as it covers such a range of text types and genres. Lots of our children, when reading for pleasure, always want to select the same types of books, be that from the same author or from the genre that they prefer. To help widen their experiences and to ensure that they have a wealth of reading knowledge, it is important that we give children these opportunities to read this wider range.

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### How will I record my child's reading at home?

For the children's return to school following the recent lockdown, we have made a further amendment to the way in which children/parents record their reading. Again, to further reduce the items that move between school and home, we have now set up an online reading record for each individual child that can be accessed via Google Classroom.

On your child's Google Classroom Class Page, you will find a Google Docs that has been allocated to your child where you can log their home reading in the same way that you would log it in their Reading Record/Reading Diary. This should be updated each time your child reads and should be 'handed in' at the end of the day on a FRIDAY. This will then be checked and returned by the end of the day on a MONDAY. If you do any reading over the weekend, please add this in when the document is returned to you.

For children in Key Stage 2, we would encourage you to get them to record their Reading Plus/Reading for Pleasure sessions themselves to develop independence. If your child is in KS2 and has access to Bug Club, this should REPLACE Reading Plus for the home reading sessions = i.e. please follow the instructions above but record the reading on Bug Club.

Miss King has added a video to the Whole School class page on Google Classroom which shows how to access this reading record if you are using an iPad/tablet, as you will need to take some different steps to record using this type of device than if you are using a laptop/PC. We would also recommend that you have downloaded the Google Classroom App, as well as the Google Docs app too.

### Reading for Enjoyment

While it is important that your child learns the range of skills linked to their reading, it is also important to encourage and foster a love of reading. In the classroom, they will have access to a range of texts that they can 'read for enjoyment' and we would encourage you to give your child the opportunity to have things that they can read at home which they can also do for the pleasure of reading. All reading is purposeful and we ask that they also record any reading they do for enjoyment in their online reading record too; this can include the books that they have as a bedtime reader as well!

### How will I know if my child is ready to progress to the next reading level?

Reading Plus will automatically review your child's progress with reading based on the activities that they have been working on and will set activities to focus on their individual target areas. Your child's class teacher will be able to monitor their progress on Reading Plus and this will support and inform their teaching of reading in school too. Reading Plus will gradually increase the level of challenge for your child to move them on and help them progress with their reading.

In school, we will usually hear your child read at least once a week; this may be as part of a guided reading group and/or this may be individually. In school, we will focus on teaching your child the skills for reading and as part of their Guided Reading sessions, they will be working on texts that offer a wider challenge, so that your child's teacher can teach these skills. In addition to Guided Reading, your child will also have their own individual reading book which will stay in school that they will periodically read with an adult. These books will act as the child's 'cosy read' and they should be able to feel comfortable when reading these books, with the aim being to improve their confidence and fluency.

At Winwick CE Primary School, Reading is a key focus, this involves detailed planning and assessment of your child's reading, which includes periodic individual assessments to ensure your child is reading at the correct level. Children will not be rushed through a reading level, as it is important that they cover a range of different texts and genres; only when they are fully ready will they be moved up to the next level.

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### How will my child be supported with their Reading following lockdown?

As a school, we have developed our Recovery Curriculum, which is evidence based and focuses on supporting all children to maximise their learning and targets gaps in knowledge that may have been a result of the period of time when the children were unable to come into school to learn. Reading is a key element of this, with additional time being allocated to reading in the Autumn term to support children to 'catch-up' with any missed learning from the initial lockdown. In addition to our usual reading routines, there have been additional lessons, along with targeted interventions linked to reading.

In September, we completed baseline assessments with all children and then did follow up assessment in the second half of the Autumn term; these assessments showed that children had regained learning and were falling back in-line with age-related expectations for that stage of the year.

In the Spring lockdown, with the additional of Google Classroom, the online learning offer provided a continuation of the curriculum for the children and the lessons completed mirrored those that were on teachers' Medium Term Planning (MTPs), meaning that once all children returned on the 8<sup>th</sup> March, they transitioned quickly and had a continuation straight back into classroom learning.

The impact of our Recovery Curriculum in the Autumn Term, as well as the continuing provision and expectations during the Spring lockdown have supported the children to have continued progress with their reading. Where it is identified that children may need some additional support, interventions will be put in place. Evidence, and our internal data, clearly shows, that for children who read regularly at home, they are more likely to have maintained their progress in reading and remain more in-line with age-related expectations; we encourage all parents to ensure that reading remains at key priority at home and that you support your child to do so regularly.

It is also really important that, as parents and carers, you also ensure that your child is accessing Reading Plus regularly at home, as well as having an opportunity to read for enjoyment. You can find lots of resources to support you with this on our school website.

This system will continue to be reviewed and, as soon as we are able to do so, we will supplement Reading Plus with individual home readers. Until then, Reading Plus will be the main resource for reading with your child at home. If you have any questions, please contact the school office and we will be happy to answer them for you.

Thank you for your continued support,

*Mrs L Duckett*

Mrs L Duckett  
Deputy Headteacher and English Lead

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