



Elmwood Junior School

Headteacher: Mr Chris Marston BSc (Hons) PGCE NPQH

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Reading at Elmwood

Dear Parents/Carers,

Today marks the beginning of Book Week at Elmwood! I am very excited about all the activities we have planned and to share and champion our love of reading. They will be coming home with a book token today which they can swap for a brand-new book at specific retailers. I have also opened up a new Scholastic book club where you can order your child new books and have them delivered straight to the school. Please use this link to order: <https://schools.scholastic.co.uk/elmwood-junior/digital-book-club>

I wanted to use this time as an opportunity to give you a bit more detail of our vision, how we promote a love of reading at school and how you can help at home. We aspire to instil a life-long love of reading in our pupils. Here are some of the things we do to develop that relationship with reading:

'The Reliable Reader' - children who read every day and have their home-school diary signed by a parent or carer could win a brand-new book!

Golden tickets - teachers hide golden tickets in their favourite books, can your child find it and talk to them about it?

Book Talk - children are able to sign up to speak about a book they love. They can also leave post-it note recommendations in their book corner.

Buddy Classes - every half-term we ask Year 5 and 6 to read to and listen to children read in Year 3 and 4.

Storytime - every day at school ends with the class choosing a book to read together.

The Library - your child has a fantastic, calm library environment to read in with their class once a week and they are also able to read every lunchtime if they would like to.

Book Week/Author Visits - last year we were lucky enough to welcome Dan Freedman (author of the Jamie Johnson series) to our school and this year we had Maz Evans (author of the Who Let the Gods Out series).

All of that is in addition to the whole class reading lessons where children practice their reading fluency and comprehension with outstanding books, 1:1 reading where adults listen to children read and phonics interventions which help children catch up.





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Reading at home to your child and listening to them read will have a huge impact on their development academically and socially and will help instil that life-long love of reading. Here is how you can build a 'reading at home' culture:



Reading at Home

Build the habit

- Create a calm space for reading.
- Try and read at the same time each evening.
- Reading for a 'fun' 10 minutes every evening is better than 30 minutes 'forced'.

Read for pleasure

- Read to your child.
- Let them read to you.
- Read at the same time as each other.
 - Let them choose the book.
- Read a story in your home language.
- Focus on enjoyment, be positive and give praise.

Ask questions

Here are some examples:

Predict – what do you think will happen next?

Summarize – what has happened so far?

Infer – why do you think she is angry? Can you explain your opinion?

Retrieve – who is the oldest child?

Connect – have you read anything similar to this?

Read a variety of genres



Learn new words

- What words don't they know?
- Can they use the rest of the sentence to guess what it means?
 - Look up the word together.
- Create a bank of words at home that they have learnt and keep revisiting them.
- Can they use these words in their everyday speech?

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to seeing some of you at the coffee morning in the library tomorrow at 9am.

Yours Sincerely
Mr. Pollock
Reading Lead





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