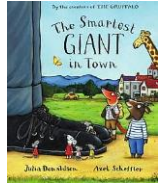


Dear Parents,

Developing the **skills** and the **will** to read

This letter is to update you on the types of books your child will be bringing home from school.



In school, our teachers are “teaching your child to read” so that they can then go on to “learn to read”. Learning to read is an extremely complex skill and at CHI we teach daily structured phonics lessons in which the children learn the letter sounds using a rigorous and sequential approach following the Letters and Sounds document. We give the children plenty of opportunities to blend those sounds together to read words and practise reading with their teacher. We regularly assess children’s sound and comprehension knowledge and in Reception and Year 1, teachers choose the reading books sent home. In Year 2, the children choose their book from different ability boxes.

Every day, reading is taught in class and your child will have opportunities to read to the teacher, take part in group and whole class reading, read independently, have free reading choice opportunities as well as being taught new sounds, vocabulary and grammar. The book(s) your child brings home to share with you are a celebration of all the skills they are learning in class.

Reading Scheme books

- your child will bring home one or two books in their Blue Bag
- this book will reflect your child’s ability to read independently, i.e. they will know all the sounds and tricky words in the book. Your child’s reading book should match their phonic knowledge
- please do not worry about the level of the book as this may vary from day to day today as our book system is organised according to the sounds and letters that your child has been taught
- when your child reads this book to you, it should be a celebration of everything they have learned/are practising, not a struggle
- if your child is at a very early reading stage, they may bring home a picture book - these books have huge scope for discussion and vocabulary development - please talk to your class teacher if you need guidance on how to best use them.

As well as teaching children the **skills** of reading (decoding and comprehension) we also work very hard to ensure that the children develop the **will** to read by making books and reading as exciting as possible. We read to the children throughout the day - stories, poems, nursery rhymes, non fiction - as many times as we can so that the children can tune in their ‘listening ear’, increase their level of concentration, learn new vocabulary and develop a love of books and reading. In fact, we start each day with a poem for the day - in Year 1 and 2, we use the fabulous “I am the tree that grew the seed” poetry book. Research shows that young children

encounter a huge amount of new vocabulary through adults reading to children, words that are rarely used in everyday talk.

In every classroom, we have well stocked Book Corners as well as books displayed in every part of the room which relate to the children's learning. Every teacher has their own basket of Special Books, full of high quality texts which they can pick up and share with the children at any point during the day.

We really want to share some of the amazing new children's authors and books that are now available and so, new this year, each class has a box of "Bedtime Books" and your child will be encouraged to borrow a book to bring home to share with you each evening.



BEDTIME BOOKS

Dear Parents/Carers,

Your child has chosen to bring this book home to read/share with you. Each class has their own "Bedtime Books" box full of quality texts - fiction, non-fiction and poetry.

Please enjoy this book together by reading it to your child, or letting them read it to you, if they are able. Take time to talk about the book and discuss new vocabulary and ideas.

These books are all picture books as research shows that children learn great reading skills such as inference, deduction, critical thinking and empathy by looking at the illustrations alongside the text.

Don't worry if your child brings this book home more than once, as there is great value in reading and re-reading books as the words and pictures become more familiar on each reading.

Please support us in helping your child become a life-long reader by enjoying this book together.

We also have our amazing Library in school. This introduces children to the idea of a "room full of books" and helps them learn how to choose books and also to discover what kind of books they prefer.

Thank you for supporting us by reading to and with your child. The Bold Beginnings Report (2017) recognised that learning to read is "pivotal in raising children's self esteem" and also helps build their skills of "perseverance, concentration and resilience". It also acknowledges that reading is the "route to supporting children's early writing, developing their imagination and composition as well as their spelling and handwriting".

Thank you,

Mrs Sue Jakob
Deputy Head, Reading & Assessment Lead

