



Cotherstone Primary School Newsletter

12th May 2023

Reading

We all appreciate and understand the importance of reading and know that this is key and can help unlock so much for all children in their future. With this in mind, we expect every child to read at home a minimum of 3 times a week and for this to be signed in reading records by an adult. There is some useful guidance to enable families to make this a successful and enjoyable experience at home below and if you need any support with this, please do not hesitate to contact school as we are more than happy to help.

5 ways for families to have fun reading at home

- 1**
Be curious

Asking questions and talking about the book is a great way to form connections, develop understanding and make reading even more enjoyable. Start by discussing the front cover and what it suggests the book could be about. Then share ideas about what you've been reading. You could talk about the characters, something that has surprised you, what something reminds you of or how it made you feel.

You might ask questions like, "how did it make you feel when...", "why do you think this happened?", or "what do you think will happen next?" then give children plenty of time to think and respond.

Make sure you give your child the chance to ask questions too. Children, (and adults!), often enjoy reading the same book again and again – this provides an important opportunity for children to get to know the story well, develop confidence and increase comprehension and vocabulary.
- 2**
Be playful

Start by making a calm and comfortable place for your family to relax and read independently or together. You might be reading the same book together, reading different things at the same time or getting your children to read together. This can be relaxing and fun for you all and just a few minutes each day can have a big impact on children of all ages. Be guided by your child and when you feel is the best time to read together – what matters most is that they enjoy it.

Why not try acting out your favourite parts of the story together, using different voices and dramatic actions. Have fun letting go!

Helping your child to see reading as play time rather than work time is one of the most powerful ways to help your child engage in books and become a lifelong reader.
- 3**
Be creative

Bring reading to life by getting involved in some crafty activities related to the book. It provides the perfect opportunity to talk about the story you've been reading too.

Why not try drawing some of the characters or creating a picture to show a different setting. You could then use these to retell the story or make up your own version.
- 4**
Be imaginative

Help engage your child in a way that suits them. This could mean creating treasure hunts that include finding similar objects that were in the book you shared, making a recipe that you read together or play a game where you pretend to be the characters in the book. Try using different voices, sound effects or actions as you read. If that all sounds too much, how about making a book tent with a blanket and some pegs – it could be a cave, a den or a castle depending on the story you are sharing.

Gift books as presents. Encourage book swaps between friends and family and encourage your child to always carry a book with them, so they are never bored on the bus, while waiting for a sibling to do an activity, or when they need a bit of quiet in a busy household.
- 5**
Be ready to read anywhere, anytime!

Reading isn't limited to storybooks! We are immersed in a world of print, which can be shared anywhere and at any time. Read yourself and help your child to join in, this could be anything, including, magazines, postcards, comic books, travel brochures, sports programmes, toy boxes, or labels on clothing and food. Local libraries are perfect for finding a rich and diverse mix of story and factual texts, as well as poetry and audiobooks.

Lunch money increase

We have been informed by Durham County that school lunches will increase in price in September.

A school-age child's lunch will cost £2.50 and a pre-school age child's lunch will be £3.00 (£2.50 plus VAT).

This week in Class 3

A message to Year 6 from Miss Thomas...

I can't begin to express how proud I am of every single one of you for your determination, hard work and optimistic attitude throughout SATs week. Each one of you took the tests in your stride and used it as a way of showing exactly what you know and can achieve. The way you conducted yourselves, staying positive and being there for one another, you should be so proud of yourselves; I know we are! Now it is your time to enjoy all of the memories we can make together as we head into the final half term.



Awards

Class 1: Star of the Week: Noah for great reading. Presentation: Thomas

Class 2: Star of The Week: Penny for working hard on decimals. Presentation: Reuben

Class 3: Star of the Week: Year 6 for all of your hard work, determination and optimism throughout SATs week!

Presentation: Henry



This week's lunchtime awards go to:

Annie for always saying thank you to Derrick for her lunch

Rupert for sitting patiently waiting to be called up to join the dinner queue

Lydia for being a great team player

Ralph for always being polite to lunchtime staff

Homework

Class 1: Please see your child's homework folder.

Class 2: Geography: Research a European country. Science: Wire buzzer question.

Class 3: Spellings. Geography - features of UK woodland. Art - see your homework folder.



Dates for your diary

17th May - FOCS Blue Bag Collection

18th May - Class 3 trip to Killhope

22nd May - Class 1 to Orienteering event at Staindrop

24th May - Class 2 to cricket competition at Raby Castle

25th May - Class 1 to multi-skills festival at Staindrop Academy

26th May - School closes for half term break

5th June - School re-opens

Thank you for your continued support.

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Mrs Julie Gibson and the Cotherstone Team