

## Sacred Heart RC Primary School, Atherton

Your questions answered about

# Reading and Books

### **I want my child to do well at school so what can I do to help?**

*Reading is always the most important homework! Reading underpins learning in every other subject so whatever ambitions you and your children share for the future, the ability to read and understand text will make a difference.*

### **How many times a week does school expect children to read?**

*We hope that our children are enjoying books everyday....before tea, after tea, before bed...whenever suits your home timetable best. Teachers will look for a minimum of three comments and adult signatures in the reading log [four in Reception class because no other homework is given]. Every class has a 'book change' day on which logs are checked. If books are not returned or if there is not enough evidence of reading a 'reading alert' letter may be sent out as a prompt.*

### **What books should children be reading?**

*Children should be reading a range of good fiction, non-fiction, including poetry. One book is provided by school; this is sometimes a 'scheme' book so that teachers can be sure that children are reading books of appropriate and increasing challenge. However, children are not limited to just reading the school book. At least one comment weekly should be about the school book but we would love to see comments about other books from home, books received as gifts, books from the library etc.... Our older pupils who have moved beyond the reading scheme should be independently selecting books that they enjoy. To move readers on, teachers will again look for an appropriate level of challenge in book selection.*

## **Do I always have to hear my child read?**

*Hearing a child read regularly is an important part of learning at home but there are other ways to enjoy books that are just as important. We have heard that you are great storytellers too! As children get older, they will want to go off and read independently more. Perhaps you could ask about the plot, the characters, great words used by the author. However, we just ask that when you sign the log, you do know how much reading your child has actually done. As pupils move into Y4 and beyond, please remember that a couple of pages or even a couple of chapters in a week is not enough and that you need to be 'raising the reading bar' at home.*

## **What is a good reader?**

*Good readers enjoy books! They have a thirst for reading and always have a book on the go. Good readers can talk about books and authors and start to develop preferences. Good readers think that books are happy, sad, exciting, funny etc...With your help, all of our children can be readers! And don't forget, you are reading role models.*