



Dear KS2 children, parents & carers,

21.9.21:

**Read** all About it! **Read** all About It!

To reinvigorate a love of reading at Parkdale, we are launching a new and exciting initiative for our KS2 children.

Your child will have brought home a colourful booklet with 20 'recommended books' for each year group to read. Texts have been carefully chosen to include quality, age-related books, many of which have been shortlisted for awards or recommended by experts in the field of children's literature. We've included new publications, well-loved classics, a mix of genres, poetry and short stories – something for everyone!

The new 'Books to Read Before You Leave...' challenge works like this:

- **Bronze** - read 3 of the recommended books and complete 3 reviews.
- **Silver** - read 6 (in total) of the recommended books and write 6 reviews.
- **Gold** - read 9 (in total) of the recommended books and complete 9 reviews.



There is a sticker for each of the 3 stages and any child completing Gold will receive their celebratory certificate and go into a special KS2 prize draw at the end of the year. (It's all shown in the booklet).

Classes have one copy of each the recommended books, courtesy of FOP, who have donated the money to purchase these books. We'd like to say a huge THANK YOU for generously supporting us in our Reading at Parkdale. We ask that children take good care of the books and bring them back to school, once they've been read. It may be worth a trip to the local library too.

The 'recommended books' differ in ability and some may be too difficult for your child to read themselves. But don't worry, children can read the

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Parkdale Primary Community



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books themselves or be read to by a grown up...whatever best enables them to enjoy these fantastic stories.

To avoid any confusion, the usual colour-banded books are still in full use and should continue to be brought home and read by your children - especially those who are progressing through the differentiated stages. Some children may therefore have 2 books on the go; one that they are reading themselves and one of the 'recommended books' to enjoy with a grown up.

Research shows that children who are fluent, engaged readers, increase their academic and life chances. Instilling this love of reading is one of the best things we can do as parents and educators to help our children reach their full potential as human beings. *Wolf M (2018) The Reading Brain in a Digital World.*

One final request is that we ask that you continue to add regular comments in your child's reading diary (approximately 3-5x a week), as any support you give makes such a difference. Please see some recent government guidance (below), which you may find useful.

We hope you enjoy these exciting new books and the wonderful language and stories within.

**Happy Reading from Mrs. Dunne and the KS2 Team**

### Tips for reading aloud with your child - fluency, engagement and enjoyment!

- Make reading aloud feel like a treat. Make it a special quiet time and cuddle up so you can both see the book.
- Show curiosity about what you're going to read or what might happen next: 'This book is about a strange object... I wonder where it's come from...?'
- Read through the chapters without stopping too much. Let the story weave its own magic.
- Read with enjoyment. If you're not enjoying it, your child won't.
- Read favourite stories over and over again.
- Let your child pause, think about and comment on the story
- If you think your child did not understand something, try to explain: 'Oh! I think what's happening here is that...'
- Chat about the story: 'I wonder why he did that?'; 'Oh no, I hope she's not going to...'; 'I wouldn't have done that, would you?'
- Link the stories to your own experiences: 'This reminds me of when ...'
- Link stories to others that your child knows: 'Ah! Do you remember the dragon in ....? Do you remember what happened to him?'
- Avoid asking questions to test what your child remembers.
- Avoid telling children that reading stories is good for them.