

Shobnall Primary School



Dear parents/carers,

As many of you are no doubt aware, as a school, we are always looking at ways in which we can motivate and inspire our children. A child who enjoys their learning will develop far quicker than those pupils who lack the motivation and discipline to really engage in the opportunities open to them. We understand the crucial, fundamental element to ensure that children have every chance to succeed is to be able to read. The simple message is that, "Children who read succeed." This is certainly not just a phrase but a proven fact and we would like to extend every opportunity for this.

However, simply asking children to read does not necessarily establish good practice and enthusiasm for reading and we are looking at ways in which we can encourage both children to read more at home and school but also to further engage all our parents in the quest to motivate your children to spend more time reading. Moreover, we also recognise that current school practice does not engage and motivate all of our children and therefore we are planning to implement significant changes to the school with the sole aim to encourage and enthuse all of our children and parents.

We will be introducing new certificates after half term which will be used to reward and celebrate reading. Pupils who read consistently twice a week for a half term period will receive the Ruby Award. Children who read 3 times a week, for each week over a half term period will achieve the Sapphire Award and children who manage to read four times or more, consistently over the half term period, will receive the Emerald Award. These award certificates will be given out during assembly during the last week of each half term. Please be aware that a parent's/carers signature will be used as evidence of reading completion.

In addition to this, the PFA are busy raising funds to complete an overhaul of the current Key Stage 2 library. They are looking at redesigning the space, making it more child – friendly and create spaces and resources which will hopefully encourage pupils to want to read and use the new facility. The PFA will also be hoping to run a book sale for unwanted books during this Spring Term although dates and details will follow shortly.

Finally, and probably most significantly, the school has identified that current reading resources in our Key Stage 1 classrooms are not sufficient to engage all children (and parents). Therefore, we are looking at obtaining funds to be able to redesign our reading corners in the three classrooms and then fully stock the new shelves with new books which are exciting and current. We aim to have significant numbers of books to ensure that our children have a considerable range from which to select. Therefore, the school is now engaged in writing to local companies and organisations to hopefully obtain a significant proportion of the estimated figure of £6000 to achieve our dream. If any parent believes that they may be able to offer suggestions in terms of local businesses and organisations which the school has overlooked, we would be very interested in hearing from you.

As you can see, we are aiming to significantly improve the opportunities and resources in school but please, in the meantime, can I ask you to continue to support your child (ren) in succeeding in their education. Reading frequently and reading texts which children actually enjoy will have a



significant and positive impact on children in ALL areas of the curriculum. Please can I therefore ask if you could all spend time hearing your child read or sharing a text at least three times a week, I can assure you that this will have a positive impact on your child's learning and development.

If you should have any questions regarding reading then please do not hesitate to speak to either myself or your child's class teacher or teaching assistant. For your information, please be aware that the school will be celebrating World Book Day on the 2nd March and more details will follow shortly.

"I do believe something very magical can happen when you read a good book." – J.K. Rowling

Yours sincerely



Mr R. Cruise
Headteacher