



All Faiths Children's Academy

Friday 13th September, 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to an exciting, new year at All Faiths. We are hoping to get the year off to a great start with a new push on home reading. We understand family life can be very busy, but we want to encourage our children to see the value in reading and embrace the personal time it can offer you and your child.

We know some families aren't sure how to support with reading and so we have attached a poster to provide some exciting ideas. A child who is still learning to apply phonics and blend their words may need you to support how they sound out each phoneme. If you log in to our Little Wandle Parents site, you should be able to access the videos to help with this:

www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/

I have attached a poster that should provide some ideas on how to engage your child with a book and how you can support them once they have read. Feel free to read aloud together using funny voices, or take it in turns to read a page each. Children need to be able to read with expression and appropriate pace. Encourage them to note punctuation and changes of pace within the text. You may benefit from modelling this or listening to online stories to model this behaviour.

Reading fluently is just one half of the skill of reading. The next half is comprehending- do they understand what they have read and what does it mean? Try to ask them to predict a future event, character emotions or to summarise an event based on small sections of the text.

Finally, we want our children to love reading. We don't want it to become a chore. Could they read to the dog, share a book with a sibling or a grandparent or could they look online for recommended reads by their favourite celebrity? Just five minutes in a day could open up whole new pathways.

In future terms, we also hope to open up some parent workshops, in which we can discuss and model these skills and support you with any skill gaps you may have yourself. We will also be visiting the local library, and finished books can be directly returned or done so via school.

Our new reading chart provides rewards for children every 10 reads they complete, known as our 'Reading Zoom'. These will carry over from term to term. Reading minutes are not required to be recorded but we recommend 10-15 minutes for a minimum of 3 reads a week. Your child may write the page they have read to, **but an adult must sign the book for the read to count** as we want you to be present for a part of this read to help if they need it. Even fluent readers will benefit from 'book chat'. Children who read on our Big Cat or Phonic schemes may free read in addition to three nights of school prescribed books.

TRANSFORMING LIFE CHANCES

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We will be looking to complete two new book fairs this year but would also like to run a used book sale at lower prices alongside this event. If you find there are books at home that are in good condition and no longer required, please donate them for the attention of Miss Bolden and we hope to engage more children to leave with a book.

We are very much looking forward to a new year at All Faiths and we hope we can inspire you too. Please do keep in touch with your child's teacher if you need support and look out for future reading events coming soon.

Kind Regards,

Miss Bolden