



Head Teacher: Steve Davis
High Road,
Gorefield,
Wisbech, Cambs
PE13 4NB
Telephone/Fax 01945 870321
Email: office@gorefield.cambs.sch.uk
www.gorefield.cambs.sch.uk

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Re: Importance of home reading

Dear parents/carers,

Happy New Year to you all and we hope that you have made lots of great memories with your children over the Christmas break! At Gorefield we are really determined that 2020 will be our best yet and you can help us to achieve this by one simple thing....**listening to your child read.**

Reading is such an important part of a child's development and this year at Gorefield Primary reading and phonics truly is one of our main foci. Reading leads to excellence and helps to develop vocabulary, written ability and comprehension to name just a few.

We aim to read with/to your child as often as possible but that is not always as often as we would like to. I know, as well as most, that life is busy and we do not always have the time to fit everything in but reading really has to be a priority, as important as food in our everyday lives.

SO this term we are going to be organising our reading a little differently. Each child, in the earlier stages of reading, will be given a reading book to take home that matches and links to the phonics level that the child knows and is confident with so that the book is phonetically decodable.. We are asking that as **an absolute minimum**, you hear your child read **3 times a week** and of course every day is the ideal. This does not have to be the whole book, it can be just a couple of pages. The home reading books will only be changed after the child has had the opportunity to **read the book three times**, once for decoding, the second time for fluency and being a storyteller and the third time to gain the comprehension skills from the text. Children who are off the levelled reading books will have longer 'free reading books' to take home and will keep the books until they have finished them. We ask that each read for both levelled and 'free' reading is signed by an adult in the children's reading record book.



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We have spent thousands of pounds on new books for the library, classrooms and reading schemes over the past two years but already these books are diminishing as they get lost, damaged or mislaid. If you have found any at home while having a Christmas sort out please bring them back and drop them to me or onto the office. Please try to keep the books away from water bottles as this often damages the books.

As we have spent a lot of money on these beautiful books we will be asking you to make a contribution towards any books that have been lost or damaged and we thank you in advance for your co-operation with this. It is really important that children are really aware of the value of books and not just the monetary value.

Please, please give your child the best chance at success and listen to them read as often as possible.

Kindest regards,

L.Blythe

EYFS and Phonics Lead