



Reading Update May 2022

Dear parents/carers,

Following a joint evaluation of our reading books with our English Teaching and Learning advisor from Herts. for Learning, we are delighted to confirm that our new look library has reopened today.

As a school, the teaching of reading remains a high priority for us:

'Reading is fundamental to education. Proficiency in reading .. is vital for pupils' success developing communication skills for education and for working with others: in school, in training and at work. Pupils who find it difficult to learn to read are likely to struggle across the curriculum. (Department for Education, The Reading Framework 2022).

Our aim is for your child to share our passion for reading and engage positively with books, independently and with confidence.

Colour Coded Books

A particular focus for our re-organisation has been our colour coded books which support children to secure their understanding of phonics (the teaching of reading where your child is taught to read letters or groups of letters by saying the sound(s) they represent).

Our colour coded books have now been sub divided. As children progress through each colour the length of the text will increase. As your child moves from colour to colour you will see a reduction in the number of words until new sounds are secured. New books have been purchased to enhance our stock, increasing choice and variety.

You Choose, We Choose, Choose Together!

This is a new initiative we are introducing, targeted to promote confidence, independence and enjoyment. Your child will have the opportunity to have two books, one which they can choose (You Choose) and one selected by their classteacher (We Choose). For children working within colour bands, 'We Choose' books will be fully matched to the sounds that they have secured, enabling them to share books with you that they are able to read confidently, independently and fluently. For children working outside the colour band system, books will be chosen by us that require an element of de-coding, but again can be read independently. Books that the children choose themselves (You Choose) may be ones they require an adult to read with/for them, a book of interest or a story that they enjoy reading again and again! We appreciate some children enjoy immersing themselves in one text at a time, in which case we will 'Choose Together.'

Reading at Home – it really does make a difference

'Research continues to evidence that parent/carers who engage their children in books prepare them to become committed and enthusiastic readers: they can transform their attitudes to reading. Their children learn to focus and share the enjoyment of the story;





HOBLETTS MANOR JUNIOR SCHOOL

Adeyfield Road
Hemel Hempstead
Herts. HP2 5JS



Email: admin@hoblettsjm.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Sally Short

Telephone 01442 251805

they learn how stories start and finish, and how a plot unravels and is resolved; they learn that books can transport them elsewhere.’ (Department for Education, The Reading Framework, 2022).

We would like to thank you for continuing to support your child reading at home and keeping in touch with us about how you are doing through your Reading Record/Marvellous Me Reading Log. As we look to continue to support you to support your child, we thought it might be helpful to share a ‘Top Tips’ from a document from the Department for Education, this complements our Reading Tips booklet distributed last term.

We hope that this update has been useful and remain available should you have any questions about reading.

Gemma Palmer and Sally Short
English Subject Leader and Headteacher





(Department for Education, 2020)

1. Encourage your child to read

Reading helps your child's wellbeing, develops imagination and has educational benefits too. Just a few minutes a day can have a big impact on children of all ages.

2. Read aloud regularly

Try to read to your child every day. It's a special time to snuggle up and enjoy a story. Stories matter and children love re-reading them and poring over the pictures. Try adding funny voices to bring characters to life.

3. Encourage reading choice

Give children lots of opportunities to read different things in their own time - it doesn't just have to be books. There's fiction, non-fiction, poetry, comics, magazines, recipes and much more. Try leaving interesting reading material in different places around the home and see who picks it up.

4. Read together

Choose a favourite time to read together as a family and enjoy it. This might be everyone reading the same book together, reading different things at the same time, or getting your children to read to each other. This time spent reading together can be relaxing for all.

5. Create a comfortable environment

Make a calm, comfortable place for your family to relax and read independently - or together.

6. Make use of your local library

Visit them when you're able to and explore all sorts of reading ideas. Local libraries also offer brilliant online materials, including audiobooks and e-books to borrow. See [Libraries Connected](#) for more digital library services and resources.

7. Talk about books

This is a great way to make connections, develop understanding and make reading even more enjoyable. Start by discussing the front cover and talking about what it reveals and suggests the book could be about. Then talk about what you've been reading and share ideas. You could discuss something that happened that surprised you, or something new that you found out. You could talk about how the book makes you feel and whether it reminds you of anything.





HOBLETTS MANOR JUNIOR SCHOOL

Adeyfield Road
Hemel Hempstead
Herts. HP2 5JS



Email: admin@hoblettsjm.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Sally Short

Telephone 01442 251805

8. Bring reading to life

You could try cooking a recipe you've read together. Would you recommend it to a friend? Alternatively, play a game where you pretend to be the characters in a book, or discuss an interesting article you've read.

9. Make reading active

Play games that involve making connections between pictures, objects and words, such as reading about an object and finding similar things in your home. You could organise treasure hunts related to what you're reading. Try creating your child's very own book by using photos from your day and adding captions.

10. Engage your child in reading in a way that suits them

You know your child best and you'll know the best times for your child to read. If they have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) then short, creative activities may be the way to get them most interested. If English is an additional language, encourage reading in a child's first language, as well as in English. What matters most is that they enjoy it.

