

Tacolneston CE VA Primary School



Monday 28th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Reading Challenge 2020-2021

After the success of last year's Reading Challenge and summer term bingo reading challenge, I am pleased to announce that we have set up a new challenge for this year.

As you are aware, reading is a vitally important part of all children's learning and here at Tacolneston we encourage children to read as regularly as possible, both in school and at home. With increased opportunities to read, children improve their word recognition, stamina, spelling, inference skills and imagination. The list is endless.

This year the reading challenge is themed around the idea of perseverance and determination. Perseverance for all children to persevere with their reading even when they are finding it difficult and determination, having the determination to succeed at reading an individual word, sentence, book or reading level.

With this in mind, the theme for this year is going to be the life cycle of a butterfly. (I have always likened learning to read being like a butterfly as once you can read – have grown your wings, you can fly and read anything that you want to.) Once a child completes each number of weeks as outlined below, they will receive that stage of a butterfly's lifecycle to colour and then display on the large board in the library area. If they are successful in completing the maximum number of weeks, they will receive their butterfly and also a chance to be entered in to a draw to take a trip to a bookshop in order to purchase some new books for their class as well as a new book for themselves.

Five weeks of reading completed = Egg

Ten weeks of reading completed = Caterpillar

Fifteen weeks of reading completed = Chrysalis

Twenty weeks of reading completed = Adult butterfly and certificate

I hope that this will excite the children and encourage them to keep reading as regularly as possible. After this reading challenge comes to an end (at the end of May half-term), a short reading bingo challenge will take place until the end of the academic year.

Although reading is important, it is particularly important to check that your child is not only reading the words but also understanding what they have read, I have included a list of questions which might be helpful to check their understanding.

**We encourage all children, throughout the school, to read at least five times a week.
All we ask is that you sign your child's reading record every time they read.**

Staff will be checking reading records on a Monday only at the present time.

Sample questions to discuss with your child when reading with them:

Setting

- Which word is used to describe the.....?
- Which words are used to describe the?
- Can you identify any adjective phrases, which have been used to describe this setting.....?
- How has the author created suspense in this description of the setting.....?
- Why do you think the author describes the setting as “.....”.....?

Character

- What sort of person is.....? What makes you think that?
- There are two main characters in the text. How are they similar / different?
- Do you agree with the actions of what would you have done?
- What is revealed about this character through the following lines of speech?
- What is your opinion of this character?
- How do you know (character) was feeling: happy, sad, scared, excited.....?
- was feeling upset. How do you know? Find two pieces of evidence.
- Why do you think (character) (state action)?
- What choice would you have made?
- Why do you think is acting in this way?
- Why do you think said “.....”?
- What do you think ... meant when he/she said “.....”?
- What does this tell you about what he/she was thinking / feeling?
- Why does the author describe the main character in this way?
- What does this description reveal about the main character?
- How do you know and were enemies? Best friends? Find 2 pieces of evidence.
- Which of these characters do you feel closest to? Why?

General:

- Can you predict what the book will be about from the title? From the front cover? From the blurb?
- Which words tell you that.....?
- What do you think will happen next?
- Which person has this text been written in?