

# Tacolneston CE VA Primary School

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,



## Reading Challenge 2021-2022

After the success of last year's 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, dedication and aiming for individual goals. Perseverance for all children to persevere with their reading even when they are finding it difficult; for children to be dedicated to their reading – to want to read and to engage in a wide variety of books and reading material and to have their own individual goals – whether that be to learn to read 5 new words before a certain date, to complete the book they are reading before the weekend or to move on to the next level in reading.

With the importance of health and well-being and the recent events of the Olympics and Paralympics being an inspiration to us all, the theme for this year is going to be sports. We will be inviting each child to select from a sporting option and once they complete the number of weeks as outlined below, they will receive that stage of the sporting development 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 trophy 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 = Ball (tennis ball, football, basketball, net ball)

Ten weeks of reading completed = Equipment needed for their sport (tennis racquet, goal post, basketball / netball hoop)

Fifteen weeks of reading completed = Kit (t-shirt, shorts and socks to design)

Twenty weeks of reading completed = Medal

Twenty-five weeks of reading completed = Trophy

I hope that the reading challenge will be enjoyed by pupils from all year groups and encourage them to keep reading as regularly as possible. It has been a delight to see the display of achievements during the past two years as you walk into the library.

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.**

### **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?