"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it" Proverbs 22:6

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Dear Parents and Carers,

At All Saints, we are passionate about ensuring that every child is a reader. Children who read, and are supported as readers, develop strong reading skills and do better at school. Open University research suggests there are three important ways to support readers and a love of reading.

**Read aloud:** Reading aloud to your children shows them reading is a pleasure, not a chore. Older children can read to younger ones too.

**Family reading time:** Making time to read alongside one another helps develop children's reading stamina and interest. Let them choose what to read and relax together.

**Book Talk:** Book Chats encourage readers. Invite them to make connections and share their views. Join in with your thoughts too! Attached you will find a more detailed guide to Book Chats.

One of the ways we develop children's reading is to use a computer programme called Accelerated Reader (AR). AR helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practise. Your child picks a book at his/her own level and reads it at his/her own pace. When finished, your child takes a short quiz on the computer – passing the quiz is an indication that your child has understood what has been read.

Since they are reading books at their own reading and interest levels, most children are likely to be successful and enjoy the books and quizzes. Best of all they learn and grow at their own pace. As with anything, performance improves with practise and children who read at least 20 minutes a day see the greatest gain. At school, we dedicate 40 minutes a day to a reading lesson. Please encourage your child to also read at home, discuss books, ask questions about what they have read and visit your local library. Together, we can help every child to be a successful reader!

As well as taking these quizzes in school, children can also access them from home by following this link:

Renaissance Learning Login

Prizes will be awarded once children have completed 5, 10, 20, 35, 50, 75 and 100 quizzes.

In school STAR Reading is used to determine your child's reading level. Book levels represent the difficulty of the text. The levels range from 0.2 up to 13.5. Books are chosen based on recommendations from the STAR Reading assessment. Each child is given a range of books (for example 2.5 to 2.9) to challenge them without causing frustration or loss of motivation. It is important for children to read with a high degree of comprehension and within the given range. Each book on the AR scheme has an interest level which indicates the age group that a book is appropriate for, based on the content and themes. These are

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recommendations only and teachers and parents are recommended to use their best judgement when guiding children in choosing their books.

We have lots of books that the children can choose from in school and have recently purchased over £1500 worth of new texts to engage the children, these include graphic novels, fiction and non-fiction books covering a range of interests. However, we are also aware that many children like to read their own books from home. You can visit the website www.arbookfind.co.uk to search all of the available books with AR quizzes to see if the book your child wants to read is on the scheme. If not, then it doesn’t mean your child can not read the book but rather that there will be no quiz available and therefore it will not be recorded on your child’s AR profile.

New for this year we are introducing a weekly prize draw to take place in our Collective Worship on a Friday. Children will be entered into the prize draw for handing in a review/recommendation/picture of any home reading, to include school books, reading for pleasure books, magazines, word puzzles, word searches or games. All entries will be displayed on the ‘Wall of Fame’ in the Reading Shed and one entry will be drawn at random to win that week’s prize. Entries can be handed in to class teachers or Mrs Sinfield.

Please see your child’s class teacher for any more information regarding reading.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Kelly Sinfield

English Lead