



Horsley CoE (VA) Primary School
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Dear Parent or Guardian

Reading at Horsley School

We would like to invite you to attend an informal workshop on Wednesday 28th April at 6.00pm, via Zoom, during which we can discuss our teaching of reading skills in more depth, as well as answer any questions you may have. To give you some introductory information, the following may also be helpful.

Our reading philosophy

At Horsley C of E Primary School reading is an integral part of the school curriculum, which impacts on all learning. As a staff, we value the importance of children being confident readers and work hard to develop their reading skills across all areas of the curriculum. We want children to enjoy reading across a wide range of genres and be able to talk about books and authors with confidence and enthusiasm.

Teaching of reading

We teach reading from Foundation Stage to Year 6. This can be in the form of one-to-one reading with an adult, shared reading, guided reading sessions and independent reading. In Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 we teach synthetic phonics alongside our reading scheme to support this. Children move through the book bands until they reach the required standard to become a Free-reader, choosing a book to read from our well-stocked school or class libraries. In Key Stage 2, as their reading develops, children are encouraged to read from a wide range of fiction and non-fiction books or other texts.

Post Lockdown

Since returning to school, we have worked hard to ensure we provide opportunities to support the children's well-being. As part of their well-being it is important that children become confident learners in school again. The children did a brilliant job of home learning, however, it is understandable that the children now have skills that need revisiting. In light of this, it is essential that we support children, with not only with their reading fluency, but also their comprehension. For some children, this will mean reading an alternative colour band. The aim of this is to meet specific needs through the text chosen. For example, a lower level book will give your children the opportunity to focus their efforts on understanding the story rather than deciphering text.

Reading at home

All children can take books home to read with an adult, this shared learning will help children to practice their reading skills and develop a lifelong love of reading. As well as teaching the skills necessary to become confident readers, we have our own library full of exciting books written by acclaimed and highly regarded authors.

Assessment of reading

At Horsley we monitor children's reading through reciprocal reading (VIPERS), independent reading, Rising Stars PIRA tests and the PM Benchmarking reading scheme. All assessments focus on the child's comprehension and understanding of the text. The PM scheme gives each child a level and the chart overleaf corresponds to the book band colour.



Book Band	PM Level	End of Year Expectations
PINK	1	
	2	
RED	3	
	4	
	5	
YELLOW	6	End of Rec (expectation pre-COVID)
	7	
	8	
BLUE	9	
	10	
	11	
GREEN	12	
	13	
	14	
ORANGE	15	
	16	
TURQUOISE	17	
	18	End of Year 1 (expectation pre-COVID)
PURPLE	19	
	20	
GOLD	21	
	22	
SILVER/WHITE	23	
	24	End of Year 2 (expectation pre-COVID)
LIME	25	
	26	End of Year 3 (expectation pre-COVID)
RUBY	27	
	28	End of Year 4 (expectation pre-COVID)
SAPPHIRE	29	
	30	End of Year 5 (expectation pre-COVID)
	30+	Year 6

Once we feel a child is confident and ready they may move onto free readers where they are able to select books from the appropriate shelves in the library. This is still carefully monitored by staff to ensure that children select appropriate books to advance their reading. Children may choose harder books from the library if they wish and have them read by an adult as part of home reading.

A zoom link will be sent out via text nearer the time of the meeting – we look forward to seeing you there. Thank you for your continued support

Mr Feldon
English Lead

