

Tuesday 21st September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

At Exeter, we understand that reading is a vital life skill and we work hard to ensure that all of our children are a learning community fluent and able readers. We also understand that, as parents and carers, you play an important role in your children being able to read. In order to support you with this, children are bringing home books for you to share together.

Children in KS1 will bring home three reading books:

- A phonics book: this contains sounds your child has learned. They will be able to read this book aloud to you, using the blending techniques they have learned in school **AND**
- A chatty book: this is approximately matched to your child's reading level but may contain some sounds they have not yet learned. This book is for you to read alongside your child as they will need support when reading some words **AND**
- A library book: this book has been selected by your child from the extensive selection we have in our library. Your child has chosen this book because it excites them but they may not be able to read it independently. This book is for them to share with an adult at home who can support them to love the book by reading it to them, where needed.

Children in KS2 will bring home two reading books:

- A phonics book: this contains sounds your child has learned. They will be able to read this book aloud to you, using the blending techniques they have learned in school. Children who are still having phonics lessons to ensure they are accurate and fluent readers will take a phonics book home **OR**
- A reading scheme book: this is matched to your child's reading level – both decoding and comprehension. Children who have completed the phonics programme will take home a reading scheme book **AND**
- A library book: this book has been selected by your child from the extensive selection we have in our library. Your child has chosen this book because it excites them but they may not be able to read it independently. This book is for them to share with an adult at home who can support them to love the book by reading it to them, where needed. All children in KS2 will bring home a library book.

As reading is so important to us at Exeter, we have invested extensively into books at Exeter. We have explained to children the importance of looking after their books so that they can be enjoyed by other children. If a book is lost or damaged beyond repair there will be a **£4 charge** per book. This will ensure that we are able to keep our library well-stocked and that all children are able to read a high-quality book at home.

There is extensive research that shows the importance of children reading at home; reading at home during these formative years is correlated with better GCSE results, higher earnings during adulthood and, most importantly, happiness in later life. At Exeter, we expect that all children read to an adult at home at least **five times a week**. This will need to be recorded in their reading records. These will then be monitored in school by your child's teacher. However, we understand that this is not possible in all cases and that every family is different; therefore, we simply ask that if you are struggling to read with your child at home, please speak to your child's class teacher so that we can look at putting additional support in at school.

Thank you for your support in this vital area. If you have any questions, or we can support you in anyway, please do not hesitate to contact us at school.

Kind Regards,

Hannah Crawford

Jennifer Pyper

English Lead

Reading/Phonics Lead