



Shirley Junior School

Belle Moor Road,
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www.shirleyjuniorschool.org.uk

Friday 6th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing this letter to inform you of some new changes to our whole school reading provision and home learning that we are very excited about.

We have subscribed to two reading programs which will allow all of our children to develop both their reading fluency and comprehension skills, as well as allowing continuity of reading progression if any bubbles need to isolate, or in the unfortunate incidence of a second lockdown:

Reading Plus 	Reading Planets 
<p>Focus: Comprehension and language development</p> <p>For: Y4, 5 and 6 to access <u>independently</u>. Y3 readers will be reassessed after Christmas and individuals will start Reading Plus then.</p> <p>About: Reading Plus supports reading by focusing on fluency, comprehension and language development. Each online session takes a total of 35 minutes to complete and includes tasks linked to each of these key reading skills.</p> <p>Some children have already been using this programme during lockdown and it has been very successful so we have extended our subscription so every child has access, to complement our focused reading lessons in school.</p> <p>Level of challenge set by: The programme itself, which adapts to children's needs</p>	<p>Focus: Fluency and Reading for Pleasure</p> <p>For: Everyone (unless they have been designated a Free Reader by their teacher) to access books that can be read and shared</p> <p>About: This program provides carefully graded reading books which are organised into bands (planets) stretching across the whole of Key Stage 1 and 2. The program is structured to ensure progression from one book band to another and enables children to read books suitable for their current stage of reading development.</p> <p>The book band (planet) is set by the class teacher and children will generally progress by 2/3 bands per year.</p> <p>Level of challenge set by: The teacher, after doing some reading assessment</p>
<p>Login details: will be provided to children next week and will be recorded in their planners. The password for both programmes is 'qwerty' (all lower case)</p>	
<p>Progress overseen by: class teachers, who will regularly access both systems in order to track their pupils' progress</p>	

Headteacher : Mrs. A Hixon BA Hons NPQH
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs. J Tearle, PGCE, BEng, MSc





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Home Learning going forwards

From next week our home learning expectations will change to incorporate Reading Plus and Reading Planets. We would like our children to complete the following each week:

- Read at least 2 times a week:
 - 2 sessions of reading for pleasure across a wide range of texts, using Reading Planet books if they have been given a band, (4 sessions of reading for pleasure for Y3)
 - 2 sessions of Reading Plus for Y4, 5 and 6
- Complete at least two reading reflections in their planners, based on their reading for pleasure books.

Some children may be asked to complete extra Reading Plus sessions during school hours to further support with their reading development.

Please turn over for the answers to some other questions you may have

Thank you for your ongoing support and happy reading!

Mrs Davie

Reading Questions:

Will my child's planner still be checked?

Teachers will continue to check planners every week, looking at the reading over the previous 7 days.

How has my child's Reading Planet band been chosen?

Over the last few weeks, teachers have made assessments regarding their pupils reading fluency and have assigned a book band to every child within our school. This may mean that if your child was reading a numbered reading book or was a free reader they will now be asked to read a specific reading planet band. As the books within this program support reading development up to the end of Key Stage 2, the majority of the children within our school will now be reading a banded book. When teachers believe pupils can fluently read books in the highest band of the program they will become free readers and will have the choice to select books from our 100 book challenge and class book corners. In class, we will continue to stretch our children's reading ability with guided reading texts and class novels.

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Is the library open?

Our library is currently closed, due to the impossibility of keeping all the books sanitised. When it reopens, children will again be able to select a **sharing book**. This is a book the child has chosen without guidance from the teacher, to support their own interests. It is to be read out loud at home by an adult, or with adult support, because it may not be the right level for independent reading.

How can I find other books for my child to read?

📖 World Book Day website (<https://www.worldbookday.com/>)

Lots of resources, including collections of books around a theme (facts, comedy, reluctant readers) which start on this page: <https://www.worldbookday.com/resources/primary/page/3/>

📖 Love Reading website (<https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/>)

A great website, well worth an explore. They also have the first couple of pages of over 300,000 kids' books available for you to download – a helpful way to see if your child might like a book before spending the money on it. You need to join the community, this is free to do.

📖 Amazon

If you have a Kindle device, or the Kindle app on your smartphone, you can send a free sample of any book to it from the Amazon website, which can help children decide whether they might like to read more of the book.

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