**Subject: How We Can Work Together to Support Your Child’s Reading**

**Dear Reception, Year 1 and 2 Parents/Carers,**

At Oldfield, we firmly believe that a love of reading is one of the most valuable gifts we can give our children. Strong reading habits not only support written and verbal communication but also open the door to all areas of learning. Reading exercises the brain, improves concentration, sparks imagination, fosters empathy, and helps children understand the world around them.

In school, we provide high-quality texts throughout our lessons. We also dedicate quiet reading time, allowing children to explore a range of excellent books. In addition, what happens at home plays a crucial role in their reading journey. We understand that family life is busy, and that technology is a big part of children's lives, but we strongly encourage making reading a priority—it is an essential skill that will benefit them for success in learning and future life.

**How You Can Support Your Child’s Reading**

Based on a reading survey we have carried out and careful consideration, we kindly ask for your support in the following ways:

* Ensure your child reads at least **three times a week** for a minimum of **10 minutes**. This should be their banded reading book from school as they are carefully structured to support reading development.
* Please note that children in Reception will be bringing their first guided reading book home over the next few weeks. We suggest they read with you for a minimum of **5 minutes** at least **three times a week** during the second half of the Autumn term, up until Christmas, and build up to **10 minutes** at least **three times a week** after that.
* Encourage them to read **aloud** to an adult or older sibling—it is so important at this stage. Regular read-aloud sessions at home and school play a crucial role in developing strong, confident, and enthusiastic readers.
* **Sign and date** their reading record after each reading session (a comment is optional).
* Use the **prompt questions in your child’s reading record** to guide discussions about their reading.
* Foster a love of reading by offering **a variety of books** beyond their banded book, such as picture books, fiction, non-fiction, comics, magazines, and audiobooks. Feel free to record these in their reading record too. The Great Boughton library is right on our doorstep. They have a great selection of books and other reading resources and are open to ordering particular titles.

**Changes to Homework**

To place greater emphasis on reading, we are **changing our homework** for Year 2. Children will now have only **one set homework task** each week.

We will check reading records weekly and kindly ask that children bring their **reading book and reading record to school every day**.

If you have any questions or would like recommendations for age-appropriate books, please don’t hesitate to ask. Below are two useful websites for book suggestions:

* **100 Recommended Reads for Every Year Group**: <https://www.thereaderteacher.com/>
* **Branching Out Posters (Book Recommendations Based on Interests)**: <https://www.booksfortopics.com/booklists/branching-out/>

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us nurture a lifelong love of reading in your children.

**Kind regards,**

The Reception and Year 1 and 2 Team