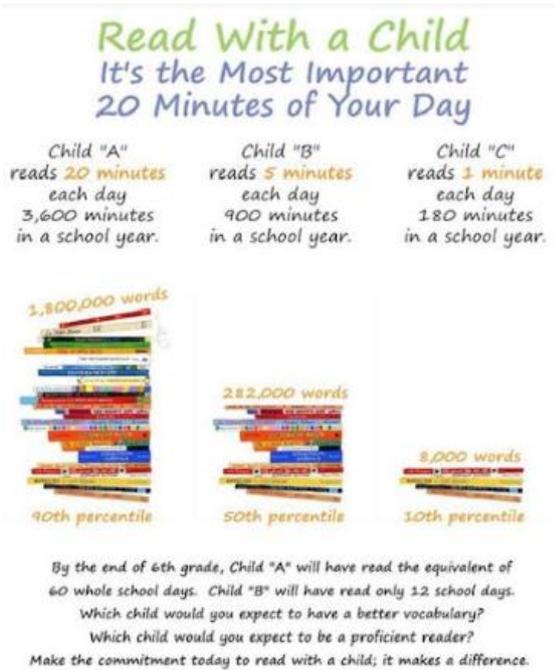


Dear Parents/carers,

Your child's reading experience at William Barcroft is much more than the reading book which comes home from school. Reading is happening all the time in a classroom and in the school. It is taught in specific reading and literacy lessons, but children are practising and using their 'reading' constantly across all subjects too. We want to promote reading for pleasure as much as possible and want children to develop a love of reading and by doing this we'll expose the children to a wider range of texts and authors too.

By the time the children reach KS2 (our school) most children have mastered their phonic skills and the balance moves towards making meaning from the text and developing fluency. Fluency is the aspect of reading that we need to develop further as this will ensure the children can access the whole curriculum and enable them to be successful in their future exams. If you can't read 5% of words in a text the meaning becomes lost and the text won't be understood. This is why it is so important to read with your child to help them overcome unfamiliar or tricky words, so that they understand what they are reading.

As parents, you can support this 'reading journey' through regular reading at home. Reading to and with your child every evening for at least ten minutes can make a dramatic difference to a child's achievement within school. A report from the Oxford University Press highlighted the importance of parents reading with their children. 'Children who read outside of class are 13 times more likely to read above the expected level for their age'.



The report also offers six tips for reading with your child at home, including:

Make time to read- even ten minutes a day; choose different types of books; take turns to read; talk about the book- asking your child questions; pay attention to the language; enjoy reading.

The children's reading records also offer suggestions as to how to create the right climate for reading at home. As our focus is on reading we do not ask children to complete 'homework' as such – just reading for a minimum of three times per week. This is monitored in school and for children reading three or more times, a ticket is awarded and the children could win a book in the weekly draw. When the children receive 150 reads they also pick a book of their choice from a wide selection on offer in school. If a child reads three times per week for the whole year this is only 156 times they have read.

For some, that do not read during the holidays this will only be 117 times across the year. A child's reading will determine their ability to access future exams and employment. We would like to invite you to come in to read with your children on a Wednesday before registration (starting from 16th September). Over the next term there will be an author visit, a theme week and a book sale in school as well as parent engagement sessions on reading and ways to help your children develop good reading habits. Please look out for these on our weekly newsletter. If you have any concerns or worries regarding your child and their reading, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's learning mentor in the first.

Thank you,

Emma Emson (Assistant Head / Literacy Lead).

