

St Nicholas' CE (VA) Primary School

Idmiston Road • Porton • Salisbury • SP4 0LB

Phone 01980 610401

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Headteacher: Mrs Sandra L Smith BA (Hons)

Friday 30th September

Dear parents/carers,

We are very excited to let you know of changes we have made this year with regards to reading across the school.

EYFS and Key Stage 1 (Years R, 1 and 2)

Following a recent change in government guidance our school has invested in a new early reading scheme called 'Success for All'. As a consequence the way we teach phonics and early reading in school has changed this year. Whilst we have always been hugely successful in our teaching of reading across the school we believe this new system will enable all children to have every opportunity to succeed rapidly.

Children in Year R, Year 1 and Year 2 will continue to be taught phonics daily. In addition to their phonics lessons, the children will have 'shared reader' lessons in the afternoon to further develop their early reading skills.

We have been able to fund purchasing all the fully decodable books for the 'Success for All' programme. Although these books have coloured variations the colours in this scheme do not follow our previous reading scheme of colour banding. This reading scheme was specifically chosen because these reading books are of a very high quality in terms of providing children with more challenging vocabulary and having a specific focus on the sound they have learned that week. Therefore please do not be alarmed if it seems like your child has 'gone down' a colour as this is an entirely different system. Throughout the week the children will read these books with the class teacher, the following week that book is sent home for your child to read to you as their reading book home learning for the week.

The reading scheme sets out 'red' and 'green' words. At the front of these fully decodable books are 'red' words which are words that cannot be decoded using their phonics and children need to practise reading these words regularly to be able to read them by sight. The 'green' words are words which contain the phonics sound that has been learnt.

This is what to expect in children's book bags for Badger, Squirrel and Hedgehog classes:

- A fully decodable book – this book is kept for the whole week and needs to be read at least 5 times a week. For the younger children this may be 5-10 minutes each day. This is absolutely fine as we recommend regular practice even if for a short period of time.
- A book to be read for pleasure – children may attempt to read this or it can be read by an adult – it is meant to be shared together. These reading for pleasure books may still have colour spot labels on (we are in the process of removing these) but they bear no relation to children's reading ability.

Key Stage 2 (Year 3, 4, 5 and 6)

With such big changes in our younger classes, we have reviewed and revised what we offer to our Key Stage 2 children in terms of reading.

Once children have learnt how to read from their previous phonics learning and have done so successfully they are deemed to be 'fluent readers'. Fluent readers at St Nicholas are now able to select a book of their choice from our range of high quality books. We will no longer focus on a colour spot. Children will be able to choose a book from a variety of school reading books available. Children will be directed by their class teacher which range of books to choose from as the books differ in complexity.

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This is what to expect in Hare, Fox, Deer and Owl class book bags:

- A book chosen from our Key Stage 2 book area. Children in Key Stage 2 are still expected to read aloud to a grown up a minimum of twice a week and this is to be recorded in their reading records, as well as reading to themselves daily.
- A book for reading for pleasure chosen from class book corners or the library. This may be a fiction or non-fiction book and children are expected to read this independently.

We still encourage children to read a range of their own books at home. Reading is a vital skill in children's education but it is also important that children learn to love to read. We would be most grateful if you would encourage your children with daily reading, ensuring it is a positive experience by giving lots of praise and celebrating the children's successes with their reading.

We will be holding a phonics information meeting for parents towards the end of this term with more ideas to support children with their phonics learning. For more in-depth information about reading at St Nicholas please join us for our Global Explorer Curriculum meeting on Friday 7th October.

These changes have had some impact on our homework expectations. Below is a table outlining the homework set for each class:

Class	Homework Set Weekly
Badger	Fully Decodable Book Reading for pleasure book Phonics sounds
Squirrel	Fully Decodable Book Reading for pleasure book Spelling list (Look, cover, write and check) Reading list Numbots (after Half term)
Hedgehog	Fully Decodable Book Reading for pleasure book Spelling list (Look, cover, write and check) Reading list Numbots
Hare	School Reading Book Reading for Pleasure Book Professor Assessor-Times tables
Fox	Professor Assessor- Home Learning Activity Reading Lists SCODE Spelling worksheet Termly Topic homework
Deer	School Reading Book Reading for Pleasure Book Professor Assessor-Times tables Professor Assessor- Home Learning Activity
Owl	SCODE Spelling worksheet Termly topic homework *may be sent home additional targeted activities as required

Miss Becky Pistell
English Curriculum Lead



'Let all that you do be done with love' (1 Corinthians 16:14-22)

