



Reading in Y5/6 – September 2020

Dear parents/carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to share expectations regarding reading in Year 5 and Year 6 and how this looks within the classroom.

Reading is an essential life skill and needs to be practised regularly for children to make progress. Please keep in mind that reading aloud is not the only element of a successful reader. Comprehension skills, such as inference and deduction, are vital, and again must be practised and refined regularly.

In class, a 30-minute Guided Reading session takes place every day. This involves timetabled activities for each group across the week; including focus text sessions with a teacher, completing follow up work, independent reading of a book of their choice, a comprehension activity or work towards a chosen reading activity. Children are grouped according to similar reading abilities, mainly for text selection, as the outcome of the focussed sessions can differ from child to child. In upper key stage two, reading out loud falls secondary to the discussion of a text as this is key for children's exploration and development of understanding of what they are reading. This is the purpose of teacher led sessions where children are guided to use their inference and deduction skills having completed a section of reading. During the focus session, pupils discuss the reading they were set (a page/a chapter/chapters) and provide feedback on their follow up work/question. The follow up work, usually set in the form of a question, could be anything from choosing words from the text to describe a character to summarising a chapter or describing the authors viewpoint. These questions develop a deeper understanding of characters, themes, plots, authorial intent etc which are vital for comprehension skills and are all linked to the KS2 (SATs) test framework coverage areas which children have a copy of in their books. The area/theme/objective of the work set is always made clear to the group so they know what they are working towards. The individual answers are then shared and discussed in the next focus session. All Guided Reading takes place in class and does not need to be completed at home as there is the timetabled session every day for children to complete whatever they need to. It is the responsibility of the children to have their follow up completed for their next focus session. The only occasions when your child would need to bring work home is if they did not complete their work as expected and to allow them to keep up with the rest of their group.

Reading for pleasure is also extremely important and I would advise that regular reading of 10-15 minutes should be encouraged to take place as often as possible. In school, children have 'independent reading' books that they read in class (in a guided reading session or spare minutes eg during registration or if other tasks are completed) – these are selected from the classroom shelves. The books on the shelves are those of interest to the children, if possible, eg favourite authors and topics.

Another essential element of reading is word recognition and understanding of vocabulary. It is vital that your child can read **and knows the meaning** of as many different words as possible. The children encounter a wide and varied vocabulary at school and therefore need to be confident in understanding it and how they can use it themselves. This is encouraged as part of our spelling routine in class. When reading at home, if your child is unsure of a particular word or words, discuss the meaning, how it is used, if it can be used in multiple ways etc.

Head Teacher: Mr John Appleby
✉ Hall Walk, Easington, County Durham, SR8 3BP

Chair of Governors Miss Claire Mitchell
✉ easingtonce@durhamlearning.net

🌐 <http://www.easington-pri.durham.sch.uk>

☎ 0191 5270259





Easington Church of England Primary School



Focussed sessions on specific reading skills take place within our three-week English units, allowing time for whole class practise on specific reading objectives.

I hope this has provided an overview of reading within Year 5 and 6. If you have questions regarding reading, please don't hesitate to ask.

Kind regards,

Mrs Appleby

Head Teacher: Mr John Appleby
✉ Hall Walk, Easington, County Durham, SR8 3BP

Chair of Governors Miss Claire Mitchell
✉ easingtonce@durhamlearning.net

🌐 <http://www.easington-pri.durham.sch.uk>

☎ 0191 5270259

