

## Every Minute Counts

Child 'A' reads  
1 minute each day

**180 minutes in a  
school year**

**8,000 words**



Child 'B' reads  
5 minutes each  
day

**900 minutes in a  
school year**

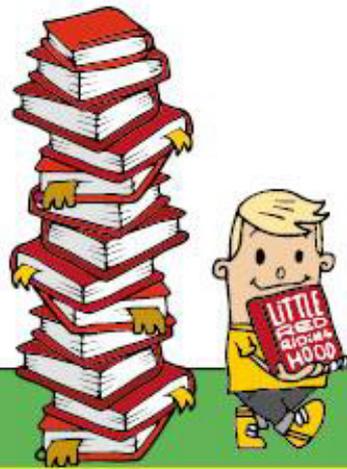
**282,000 words**



Child 'C' reads  
20 minutes each  
day

**3,600 minutes in a  
school year**

**1,800,000 words**



Dear Parents,

The above picture shows the benefits that children receive from reading on a regular basis. For 20 minutes per day, reading not only increases their fluency and understanding, but exposes them to vocabulary that will help in all areas of life.

We know that at times reading at home is hard to fit in with all the jobs that need to be done. However, it is vital that children do read at home with an adult. As a school, we have introduced the 20 minute pledge – the class teacher will read for ten minutes with the children every day and then the children have to read at home for 10 minutes – 50 minutes minimum per week.

The children have a reading diary that does need to be signed at least 3 times per week by a parent or carer to show they have read at home.

When children get a bit older, parents may feel that children don't need the kind of support that they gave when their child was learning to read. But there is so much you can do to encourage reading when your child is older.

- **Ensure that your children see you reading.** It doesn't matter if it's the newspaper, a cookery book, romantic novel, detective mystery, short stories, computer manual, magazine - anything!
- **Encourage children to join in** - ask a child to read out a recipe for you as you cook, or the TV listings when you are watching TV.
- **Give books or book tokens as presents** (and encourage others to do so!)
- **Visit the local library together** on a regular basis, and enjoy spending time choosing new books.
- **Encourage children to carry a book at all times** so they can read on journeys or in spare moments – you can do this, too!
- **Keep reading together.** There are lots of books that both adults and young people can enjoy. Try the *Harry Potter* series, books by *David Walliams* or *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis. Read books you can all talk about but make the talk light-hearted, not testing or over-questioning.
- **Go to libraries or bookshops when authors are visiting.** Children and teenagers love meeting their favourite writers - Jacqueline Wilson and Anthony Horowitz always have signing queues that are miles long!
- **Make sure your home is a reading home** - have a family bookshelf and make sure there are shelves in your children's bedrooms as well.
- **Don't panic if your child reads the same book over** and over again - let's be honest, we've probably all done it!

Each teacher in the school has a selected book they are reading from 3 p.m. onwards in school. We call it D.E.A.R. time – Drop Everything And Read. So, for example, in Morpurgo Class (Year 5/6) the children are thoroughly enjoying *The Hobbit* and really look forward to being read to. It is a time to relax, listen and let the words fill their heads and hearts.

If you need any support with reading to and with your child, please come in. If you want any advice about what books to buy, books that are appropriate for your child's age range – please ask. We are planning on providing reading opportunities with parents over the coming year and would love you to come in and enjoy these.

Many thanks for your support in this – Keep Reading!

Jhane Fennell