



# Birches First School

**Believe, Grow, Succeed ...**

**...to be the best 'me' I can be.**



17<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Dear Parents,

At Birches, we always strive to create an exciting and passionate reading community.

*'We shouldn't teach great books we should teach a great love of reading'* B.F. Skinner

We understand that reading feeds children's imagination and unlocks the joy and wonder for curious young minds. We want to confidently ensure that each and every child in our school is given the tools to become an enthusiastic and confident reader.

Reading for pleasure is our goal for all of our children; we want to instil a love of reading and an appreciation of books. Reading for pleasure can:

- Improve children's vocabulary, spelling and maths.
- Positively impact children's attainment.
- Increase empathy, improve relationships and improve wellbeing.

As you are aware, in the Autumn and Spring Terms the teachers worked hard to create a "Reading Across the Curriculum" page for your child's year group. This has been completed again for the Summer term.

This is a list of **suggested books** (fiction, non-fiction and poetry) for you to access at home with your child (particularly if they really enjoyed learning about a specific topic) to support them with their interests, should you wish to do so. It includes books linked to History, Geography, Computing, Science, PSHE.

Please note that this **is only a recommended book list** that links to the various subjects across the curriculum for your child and is not an expectation. It is aimed to be used if you can see your child is showing a particular fascination in one of units at school. We would suggest contacting libraries to see if they have the book and if you can request to loan the book from another library.

Teachers have also included a wordless picture book to promote discussion and a love of reading at home. Picture books without words develop a child's ability to infer what is happening in the story. With no words for guidance, they have to consider this out using the illustrations and their imagination. This develops comprehension and an overall understanding of story structure and plot.

Finally, there is a poetry book to expose children to a range of different genres and texts. Reading poetry helps children to learn key knowledge and skills about voice, pitch, volume, and inflection. While these are mainly functions of speech, they're also incredibly important for children learning to read.

We would love to see that if you do access any of the recommended texts, that you upload it onto Boom Reader so that teachers are aware. We are always eager to give out some reading gems out to children on the app! Finally, I appreciate that using the online app has been a big change from our physical reading diaries last year but the response from everyone has been so positive and overwhelming! It certainly has proved to be highly effective to use for all.

We monitor the access and use of Boom Reader daily as the comments written at home help the staff with your child's learning journey. Please note that even if it is one page that your child is reading at home daily we would greatly appreciate a comment written on Boom Reader so we can better gauge their understanding and comprehension of the book(s) they are reading.

Thank you so much for being on board with this reading app and supporting your child's reading journey at Birches.

Kind regards,

Mrs Kandola  
English Lead