

Friday 8th September 2023

### Read Every Day – The RED Reading Challenge

Dear Parents and Carers,

At The Vaynor First School, reading is at the heart of everything we do and therefore we value your support in reading with your child at home and sharing books together. We hope that all our children will develop a love of books and of reading. Through learning to read, children are empowered to access the entire curriculum and expand their knowledge in every subject.

**RED** Reading stands for 'Reading Every Day'. We are aiming to encourage all children to read with an adult, out of school, every day.

To take part in the **RED** challenge, children need to read at home **five times a week which can include weekends**, for a minimum of 10 minutes. Each time they read at home; an adult should sign their home reading record. The children are encouraged to read a range of materials – not just their home reading book.

**Monday 11th September** all children will bring home a reading book for them to read or share with an adult.

In **EYFS and Y1** this will be their sharing book, which is not for them to read but for an adult to read to them. From Thursday 14th September, children in EYFS and Y1 will bring home their new 'Little Wandle' reading book (plus a book to 'share') and a new reading record. These reading books will need to be returned on **Mondays** and a new reading book will come home on **Thursdays**.

In **Years 2, 3 & 4**, children can change their reading books as necessary.

The first **Red Reading** sticker will be given out on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September**.

All children will need to bring their reading records in on **Mondays** with a minimum of **5** signatures which are clearly dated. Records will be checked by the class teacher, and they will count the number of signatures. If your child reads for 5 days at home, they will be given a sticker in their Reading Record and on a Class Reading Chart. You can read a range of different books and texts to earn your 5 reads. These could be your coloured book band book (Years 2-4), Little Wandle book (for Reception & Year 1) a book from home, a sharing book (For Reception & Year 1), magazine or a library book.

**If your child is in Reception or Year 1, Little Wandle books MUST be returned on a Monday and new books will not be given out if they are not returned.** We have spent a large amount of money on the Little Wandle reading scheme and any book not returned is detrimental to the organization of books for other children within that year group.

### The **RED** challenge

**RED** = Read **E**very **D**ay

**When you read at home, make sure someone signs and dates your Reading Record.**

When you earn five signatures in a week (including the weekend), you will receive a **RED** sticker in your home record and on your class chart.

If you manage to earn a sticker **EVERY** consecutive week this year you will be rewarded with a 'Reading Rosette' at the end of the year!

Are you up for the **RED** challenge?

At the end of each half term, if your child has received a sticker for every week, they will be awarded a certificate to acknowledge their efforts and commitment to reading every day for a half term.

At the end of the year, all children who have earned their sticker for EVERY consecutive week and earned every certificate, will be awarded a 'Reading Rosette' in recognition of this huge accomplishment.

We really hope that this will encourage everyone to read as much as they can out of school.

So – are you up for the RED challenge?

We look forward to keeping you up to date with the progress of our children working towards the RED challenge. Many thanks for your continued support and co-operation.



### Frequently Asked Questions about the RED Challenge



#### **Do I need to write a comment as well as sign my child's Reading Record?**

*A signature is more than fine, a comment even better and both would be fantastic! 😊*

#### **When do the children get their sticker?**

*Stickers are given out on Mondays. These will go in your child's Reading Record and on a Class Record Sheet.*

#### **My child prefers to read in their head when they read now, does that still count?**

*Yes. If your child has read at home, please sign their Reading Record to reflect this. Try to ask them questions about what they have read to check their knowledge of the text and to show that they have read with understanding.*

#### **Does my child need a new book each time they have read?**

*No, it is fine to share books more than once – repetition helps to build their confidence.*

#### **Can my child read books that we have at home, or can it only be school books?**

*Children are encouraged to read a wide range of materials which could also include newspapers, magazines, and their own books in addition to those that they bring home from school. **There is also a range of online links for reading which can be accessed via the school's website.***

### Spellings

Following a recent national review of English by Ofsted, which included a review of how children improve spelling skills, it was found that;

*"Low-stakes spelling tests at primary level, can support pupils to learn to spell. These might be simple pre-tests, so that pupils know which of the selected words they cannot spell and can then focus their efforts on, or they might be 'practice tests' that involve repetition, peer testing and games that involve correctly spelling words."*

This year all children will still be taught the common exception words and statutory spelling patterns and rules for their year group, however we will not be formally testing and sending results home. Instead, teachers will assess children's skills by using the 'low stakes' approaches recommended in the review. This term children in Years 1,2,3 & 4 will be focusing on the common exception words and we have attached a copy of these words to this letter for your information. Children in EYFS will be following our 'Little Wandle' phonics program.