

## ST CHAD'S PATCHWAY CE VC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents / Carers,

### Changes to our Reading Scheme (Year R - Year 4)

I hope this letter finds you well. We have been working hard over the past couple of months in school to review our current reading provision and enhance it to best deliver a rigorous and structured system, which encourages enjoyment and a love of books, whilst still carefully supporting progression in fluency and understanding for our children, whatever their reading ability.

We have invested in a large amount of new staged books for children up to Year 4 so that we can run a carefully progressed and supportive reading scheme through the school. We will no longer be using the term 'free reader' in these year groups. All children have been assessed and given a new staged book, which is appropriate for their level of fluency and / or understanding. We have brought a large range of genres for these new staged books and are confident that they will be engaging and spark the children's interests. They will also really help us tackle that common problem which can occur when children become a 'free reader', and that is that they may skip, misread or simply do not understand words they have read. Having a staged book, which we will listen to them read aloud (and encourage you to do the same), will help us intervene and rectify these common mistakes before they become habit and form barriers to the reading and enjoyment of books.

This said, please do not worry that your child will no longer be allowed to select their own books based on their favourite author or genre, as this is not the case at all. We have a wealth of quality 'free reader' books in our class reading corners and we will make use of these. We will be sending home a staged book for all children and a 'richer read'. The staged book will be chosen by a teacher / TA as an appropriate book to help progress that child's fluency and comprehension skills, whereas the 'richer read' will be selected by the child and should be a book they want to engage with due to the author, blurb,



genre etc. I think this is a really important point to make - we are not putting any children 'back'. Their staged books are there to help finely tune and scaffold their progression, something that being a 'free reader' alone just could not do. Now, all children, 'free reader' or not, will have the opportunity to take home any other book they like as their 'richer read', with the understanding that this book has not been carefully matched to their developing reading ability and may need to be shared with an adult / read together / supported to understand in some way.

### What about Year 5 and 6?

A couple of years ago we invested a lot of money in the '100 Book Club' for children in Year 5 and 6. This included a wide range of genres and was to expose our children to high quality texts and to encourage them to read out of their comfort zone. Though we do not have staged books for them as well at this stage that is not to say that we wouldn't want to roll this new system out to those year groups when we can secure some more funding to support this.

### In summary:

In summary, your child will bring home two reading books each week (or once they have finished their current books). One will be a staged book that we would use to support and assess their developing fluency and comprehension skills and one will be a 'richer read', which they will choose themselves for pure enjoyment. The richer read will not be matched to their reading ability and may need to be read to them / with them.

Many thanks,

Mrs Ives

English Coordinator / Key Stage One Leader

