

SIR JOHN BARROW SCHOOL



SUCCESSING, ENJOYING, BELONGING

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Dear Parents and Carers

Over the last few months I have been looking into how we can do more to encourage our children to become confident and happy readers. As a result, we are going to try some changes in the classroom and with our reading books.

Research now suggests that children will become more fluent and confident readers if they reread books. The idea is that they will have practise saying tricky words, they will get used to how punctuation works, they can practise different voices and they will read more quickly. As that happens children develop (almost by magic!) a much greater *understanding* of the books and stories they are reading.

There is an information sheet attached which gives some tips. There will also be a very informal briefing on Tuesday 11th September after school in my classroom. Please come along. I'll do a quick demonstration and answer any questions you may have.

Reading books

Until now, children have changed their reading book as soon as they have finished it. We are now suggesting that children read their books more than once. There are no hard and fast rules. Young children with short books might read them three or four times. Older children or those on higher reading bands might read part of a book several times but not all of it.

We will still use reading records to pass comments and praise between home and school.

In other schools the benefits have been seen over the course of a year rather than immediately. We would appreciate your support in encouraging your child to keep their school reading book for longer so they can improve their reading. Of course they can read other books too. There are books in all classrooms and children can visit the school library.

If you have any feedback on this, please come and see me.

Nancy Fletcher