

READING



Dear parents,

At Castle Hill, reading is at the heart of the curriculum.

Many children have been away from school for a long time and this first term is focused on ensuring your children receive the highest quality education in order that they can fill in any gaps and achieve the standards of which they are individually capable.

Children are taught to read (decode) through a systematic and rigorous approach to phonics. For children to be successful in learning to read, they need to practise the sounds that they are taught.

It is also very important that children learn to love reading and enjoy listening to stories and talking about books. Their understanding of vocabulary is key to comprehending what they read.

Research shows that the biggest impact on a child's success in school is their vocabulary and their language comprehension (how many words they understand).

It is good practice for the children to reread a book as this not only helps with their fluency and intonation, it helps them to feel successful.

We cannot stress enough that learning to read, and becoming a successful reader, is not a race through book band levels. Each book band in Reception and KS1, and LKS2, is designed to closely match the phonics phases being taught and is designed to last approximately a term.

Within each book band, there are different levels of challenge and vocabulary to enable us to stretch children where necessary using age appropriate texts and content.

You may also find the following website useful for access to a wider range of reading materials and ebooks online: www.oxfordowl.co.uk

Therefore, please allow us to exercise our professional judgement as we help your children continue and develop on their reading journey at school.

Like you, we only want to do what is best for your child.

Thank you for your support.