



Head Teacher: Mrs D Reynolds - BSc Hons QTS NPQH

*Aim High*

*Never Give Up*

*Follow Your Dream*

*Lead By Example*

Dear Parents/Carers,

Recently, we wrote to you regarding our reading expectations. Following discussions at consultation evening, I would like to clarify these further with the reasoning behind our expectations.

The best way to get better at reading is to read as often as possible. It is vital that children build a love of reading. Research shows that children who read for pleasure are far more likely to be successful within all areas of the curriculum.

Children who find reading difficult need to enjoy books at their own interest level. Therefore a child may be reading a book that supports their reading development, but need an adult to support them to enjoy a book at their own interest level, such as Harry Potter, to build the enjoyment of reading.

To encourage good reading habits and develop confident readers at an early age, Norwood expect pupils to read five times per week. This can be through:

- Independent reading
- Reading aloud to an adult
- Sharing a book - child and adult read alternate pages
  - child reads individual words whilst adult reads the rest of the page (particularly suitable for early readers)
  - adult reads several pages and then asks the child questions about the section read (What happened? What might happen next? Why do you think the character did that?)

Ideally there should be a mix of reading across the week, building as much reading by the child at their level as possible whilst retaining an enjoyment of reading. **Reading diaries must be signed or initialled by an adult each week to confirm that the reading has taken place.**

In order to encourage children to read regularly we have created a system where children are rewarded for their hard work. Each week reading diaries are checked in school. When a child has read five times in a week on five separate days, the child's marker is moved one step on the reading challenge board. The aim is for each child to reach the top of the reading challenge board by the end of term. There is one step for each week in a term. This will vary depending on the length of the term.

We understand that there may be occasions when you are unable to read every weekday due to other commitments. Therefore we have introduced a 'bonus read'. If a child tops up to five reads or more by using days at the weekend, they will move an additional space on the reading challenge board ( e.g. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday = 5 times = 1 space on the reading challenge board or all five week days plus a day at the weekend = 5+ times= 2 spaces on the reading challenge board).

At the end of term, all pupils that have reached the top of the reading challenge board will receive a prize for their commitment and hard work. Pupils who read for 7 days a week throughout the term will receive an additional reward.



Thank you in anticipation of your support. We aim to get all children reading fluently and confidently, and with your help, they will succeed.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs J. Cockerill  
Literacy Leader

Mrs D.Reynolds  
Headteacher

