

Dear parents/carers,

As we approach the end of our first week back at school, I wanted to take this opportunity to clarify our home reading offer for this academic year.

Reading is a life skill that we wish to nurture, develop, and celebrate here at Kates Hill. We want all children to understand the importance of reading and continue to develop their reading skills alongside a love of reading as they move through the school.

As of today, every child will have been given:

- a staged reading book which is matched to the child's reading ability. (This may be given out a little later for year 1 & Reception children)
- a chance to select a library book of their own choice to develop their reading for pleasure.
- a reading diary for comments from adults at home. Guidance on how to complete this has been attached.

Every child in school will read with an adult every 2 weeks. It is important that all children bring their staged reading book and reading diary into school **every day** so that these are available for all reading sessions.

It will be beneficial to the children if their home reading books can be shared with an adult at home on a regular basis and that an adult from home makes a comment in the reading record at least once a week.

Finally, can we ask that any school reading books that you may have at home, are returned as soon as possible, so that we can audit the resources we have. In particular, please can we ask that any *Read Write Inc* books are returned as these are an expensive resource. These look a bit like the ones pictured below:



If you have any questions or need any support, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or myself via the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Hall  
Reading Lead



## Advice for filling in reading diaries

A reading diary is a great way to track your child's progress and encourage a love for reading. It helps teachers understand how your child is doing at home and provides a space for parents to share insights.

Each time your child reads, try to include:

1. **Book Title & Author**
2. **Pages Read**
3. **A Brief Comment** – this is the most useful part!

## Types of Comments You Can Write:

- Confidence while reading (e.g. hesitant, fluent, growing confidence).
- Use of expression (e.g. using different voices, showing emotion).
- Decoding tricky words (e.g. sounding out, needed help, recognised sight words).
- Understanding of the story (e.g. retelling events, answering questions, summarising).
- Predictions or thoughts (e.g. what they think will happen next, favourite part).
- Enjoyment level (e.g. loved it, wasn't interested, found it funny/scary/exciting).
- Discussion about characters or events (e.g. likes/dislikes, comparisons to other stories).
- New or interesting vocabulary learned.
- Linking the story to real life or other books.
- Attention span and focus (e.g. stayed engaged, got distracted).
- Any difficulties (e.g. struggled with longer sentences, found topic confusing).

## Top Tips

- Keep it short – 1–2 sentences is fine.
- Encourage your child to talk about the book before and after reading.
- If you read to your child, write that down too!

