

# Lickey Hills Primary School & Nursery

dream together • believe together • achieve together



6th September 2019

RE: Homelearning Information

Dear Parents and Carers,

Class teachers will be sending home reading books, issuing spellings and timetables club information very soon. This year we are introducing Home Reading Records for Year 3 -6, so that we can continue the good reading habits established in Reception and Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2). The records will help us to ensure school and home work together so that every child is given the encouragement and opportunity to read at home at *least* three times per week as part of their expected home learning. You will find a section on the record sheet for parents and carers to sign each week to let us know your child has completed this vital part of their homelearning. Please give us your full parental commitment and ensure your child reads to an adult/ with an adult / supervised by an adult for at least 20 minutes three times every week, including holidays. While you may speak with your children every day, the vocabulary you use is often limited and repetitive. Reading books ensures that your child is exposed to **vocabulary** on different topics, which means they hear words or phrases which they may not hear otherwise in their day to day lives. By consistently reading with your child every day, your child will learn to **concentrate** and sit still for longer periods of time.

We encourage children to read a wide variety of books, magazines, nonfiction, poetry, etc. The 20 minute minimum read can be ANY book of choice as long as you're reading (or being read to). We know TV, Video games, smartphones and apps are popular among children however, reading a good book that your child is interested in can be just as entertaining. Furthermore to encourage children to become enthusiastic and keen readers we are introducing a brand new reading token which may be given for consistent home reading, excellent reading aloud within the class or group, improved reading or helping others to improve their reading skills. The tokens will be collected and one drawn during the half termly awards assembly with a reward. We really hope you will work with us to ensure children develop their reading skills and vocabulary whilst becoming avid readers and book lovers.

The reason we're asking for this commitment is because reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success, more so than family circumstances, parents' educational background or income. Research shows that parents who read with their child for as little as 10 minutes a day can make a significant difference to their child's achievement levels. (National Literacy Trust, March 2019).

- Reading increases intellect and vocabulary - FACT
- Reading improves spelling - FACT
- Children who enjoy reading are more academically successful - FACT
- Children who read more produce better pieces of writing - FACT

For parents who work, or have a busy lifestyle, relaxing with your child and simply enjoying each other's company while reading can be a great way for you both to wind down, relax, and bond. The more you read to your children, the more **knowledge they absorb**. Reading together encourages a **thirst for knowledge** it leads to questions about the book and the information within. Reading different types of books on different topics gives children **a wide range of information to learn from**. As well as story/fiction books there are also non fiction/information books on topics such as different animals, people, places, periods of

Old Birmingham Road, Lickey, Birmingham B45 8EU • Telephone 0121 445 1992 • Fax 0121 445 5803  
email [office@lickeyhills.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@lickeyhills.worcs.sch.uk) • [www.lickeyhills.worcs.sch.uk](http://www.lickeyhills.worcs.sch.uk)

Headteacher Miss Amanda Salisbury, B.Ed(Hons), NPQH



# Lickey Hills Primary School & Nursery

dream together • believe together • achieve together



history etc, and there are also books to help teach children about **important life skills** such as sharing, being kind, and diversity.

The importance of reading can also be shown when children **develop empathy**. When a child can put themselves into the story - they identify with characters, and they feel what they are feeling. Children begin to **understand and relate to emotions**. Reading together gives you a chance to speak about what is happening and to use this as a **learning experience**. Reading develops a child's **imagination and creativity** one of the great benefits of reading with children is watching their growing imagination. When we really engage in a book we imagine what the characters are doing. Seeing the **excitement** when they know what is going to be on the next page, or having them guess what is going to happen is a wonderful experience to share with your child.

Please give us your full parental commitment to the 20 minute read this academic year, as *Lauren Child, Waterstones Children's Laureate and author of Hubert Horatio*, said: ***'Reading aloud with your child at any age is a wonderful way of connecting because you see what excites and interests them, and it's also a way of understanding what's going inside their head. For children, reading can be a gateway to learning but also to happiness.'***

Yours in learning,

Miss A.L.Salisbury (Headteacher) and Class teachers

Old Birmingham Road, Lickey, Birmingham B45 8EU • Telephone 0121 445 1992 • Fax 0121 445 5803  
email [office@lickeyhills.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@lickeyhills.worcs.sch.uk) • [www.lickeyhills.worcs.sch.uk](http://www.lickeyhills.worcs.sch.uk)

**Headteacher** Miss Amanda Salisbury, B.Ed(Hons), NPQH

