

## *Key Areas of Information about Aston Rowant School: How do we inspire a love of reading?*

Reading is the gateway to learning. Reading for pleasure is an important habit for children to develop. Some children may love reading naturally, but some may require a little more encouragement and support. There are many different factors that affect a child's reading ability and many different ways to inspire a love of reading.

Pupils who struggle with the basic mechanics can quickly fall behind. Being able to read accurately by the age of 6 has a strong correlation with future academic success. So, getting phonics teaching right is essential. We do this in different ways including:

- providing targeted help for identified pupils from an extra adult during the phonics lesson
- organising pupils into groups for phonics lessons according to the grapheme-phoneme correspondences they know
- regularly reassessing pupils so they are in a group where they can make the best progress
- providing extra practice, in addition to phonics lessons, for children who need the most support

Once children have the tools to help them read, we look to develop a love of reading and a lifelong appreciation of reading for pleasure. We have a multi-faceted approach.

- **Promote reading:** Our newsletter has weekly book recommendations, and both children and adults write books reviews for the newsletter and book corners in each classroom and promote a culture and expectation of reading within the school.
- **Daily reading:** Every child develops at their own pace. Some children may master vocabulary sooner than others, but regular daily reading, even in short bursts, increases everyone's chance of being a proficient reader.
- **Independent reading:** We encourage children to read independently. These quiet times also help children learn to self-regulate their emotions and decompress. After every lunchtime the whole school has ERIC (Everyone Reading in Class)
- **Shared reading:** We encourage children to discuss their books and talk about what they like and dislike. This encourages critical thinking, improves communication skills and inspires them to read the books that their peers have been reading.
- **Book Swaps:** each World Book Day we do a school wide (including adults) book swap
- **Reading out loud:** We encourage the children to read out loud at every opportunity. This not only improves communication and presentation skills but also improves their listening skills. Reading and sharing in Collective Worship is one part of this.
- **Reading spaces:** Having a designated quiet space for children will have a positive impact on their mental health and their learning capabilities. Each classroom has a dedicated corner of the room which is cosy and comfortable; somewhere that you would want to spend a few hours reading.
- **Reading role models:** Witnessing any adult reading for pleasure can inspire a child to read. We have signs around on each classroom and office door sharing what every member of staff is currently reading and are seen to read when we can.