



Dear Parent/Carer,

At Hexham First we strongly believe that learning to read and the development of a love of reading is vital to a child's success as a lifelong learner. We aim to inspire our children to read everyday either at home or at school with the aim of developing their reading skills and a love of books and reading which will last a lifetime. Reading with your child at home is vital in order to help stimulate your child's imagination and expand their understanding of the world. It helps them develop language and listening skills and prepares them to understand the written word. Reading books *open your child's mind to a whole new world of vocabulary*. Books showcase a wide range of words that your child may not use or hear every day. When you include reading into your child's daily life, it helps them develop a higher level of words to use in their everyday conversations. As you read, your child may ask what words mean, take time to explain the definitions and talk about what your child is reading.

To encourage children to read we are going to run a 'class competition.' Each week the class with the highest percentage of children who have read at home will get to choose any adult in school to come and read them a story. The winning class will be celebrated in our Friday assembly and will be awarded a classdojo.

In order for a class to win, individual reading diaries need to be dated and signed. We don't expect you to write a comment, a smiley face or a tick will do, however comments are always appreciated, we do read them and they give us additional information about how your child is progressing. Here are some examples of comments that you could write in the school diaries;

#### Comments associated with word skills

- He/she has read well but needed support to sound out the word, 'thankful'.
- He/she read all the words correctly.
- He/she read familiar words independently.
- He/she found some words difficult.
- He/she needs to practice again to reinforce the words.
- He/she read accurately and confidently.
- He/she was able to work out new words using picture clues.
- He/she used his/her 'fred talk' to sound out 'chip and shop'.
- He/she self-corrected independently.

#### Comments associated with comprehension(understanding)

- He/she understood the story well.
- He/she could discuss events in the story.
- He/she could retell the story.
- He/she could talk about the story confidently.
- He/she needs to read again to improve understanding.
- He/she used the pictures to assist understanding.

#### Comments associated with attitude and interest

- He/she read confidently.
- He/she really enjoyed the story.
- He/she didn't like this book.
- He/she used fantastic expression.
- He/she read fluently.
- He/she found this book difficult.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support in your child's learning. If you have any questions please get in touch.