Dear Parents/Carers,

Here is some important information regarding expectations for home reading at GWPS.

All children from Foundation Year to Year 6 children are expected to read daily at home.

The home reading program at GWPS is differentiated and based upon children having access to rich literature. Children are free to choose their own take home books from a wide selection which allows for individual needs, interest-based, favourite authors etc. It is important that the children choose the books they will take home for themselves.

This practice of allowing children to choose their own take-home books recognises that learning to read is not an end in itself. Reading is always about something and always for some purpose. We learn to read by reading, therefore the more reading children do the easier their journey will be to become independent readers. Children should be reading daily to ensure they build on current practices. Learning the Oxford Words will also support them in identifying words when they are reading and writing at home and at school. Children are expected to learn these words by initially reading them by sight and then learning how to spell them. It is essential that you support your child to learn these words.

Reading at home should be an enjoyable experience. If your child cannot read the take-home book, you or someone else should read it aloud to them. Later readings may involve the parent and the child reading the book together.

Take-Home books provide an opportunity for children to further practice their developing reading abilities by borrowing books they wish to read or wish to have read to them by someone else. This practice of taking books home also develops in children, a positive attitude toward books and reading.

Beginning in Foundation Year, children take home books for daily reading. Take-home books can be from a variety of sources including: levelled books, books from the classroom library, books children have made, personal books and books from other libraries. As children become stronger readers they will read more independently (including chapter books).

Teachers track and monitor children’s reading via various methods and support reading through differentiated reading groups with essential learning skills and strategies provided at point of need. When a child becomes more independent with their reading, reader covers may not be required.

Primarily, reading time should begin with 10 minutes for Foundation Year children, progressively moving towards 30 minutes for year 4 students each day – but this will vary from child to child. After year 4, children should be able to sustain longer periods of reading and should be encouraged to do so.

Any questions can be directed to your child’s classroom teacher or to me.

Anne Kyriacou
Curriculum Coach