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Dear Parents and Carers,

KS2 Reading

As you know, at Northbourne we all share a real passion for reading and a love of books. We know that the development of reading skills is absolutely crucial to the progress that children make across the curriculum and we are determined to enable your children to become confident, enthusiastic and effective readers.

In our determination to achieve this goal/vision, we would like to make you aware of some of the changes we have made to teaching reading in Key Stage 2. After successfully trialling it in Yr 5/6 last year, we have adopted a 'whole class' approach to the teaching of key reading skills. Instead of a daily 'reading carousel' of 30 minutes the children now have three longer reading lessons lasting approximately 50 minutes. Teaching the whole class, instead of groups, means all children in the class have access to the same level of text, can read with the teacher more often, moving faster through more or longer complex texts. It also allows all the children to focus on the same learning objective, share the learning experience and share ideas. All children within the class, in every session, will benefit from the teacher's explanations, modelling, questioning and feedback. The 'whole class' reading approach also allows more opportunities for topic-related reading, reading as a stimulus for writing and examining the class story in greater depth. As a consequence, you may have noticed that your child's reading diary no longer has a weekly guided reading stamp. This does not mean we are not hearing your child read but just that we are working with them in a different way to develop their reading skills.

All the Key Stage 2 staff are extremely enthusiastic and committed to our new approach to the teaching of reading comprehension. Lesson observations show that this way of teaching is helping all children make good progress with this part of the curriculum, and discussions with small groups of children suggest that they overwhelmingly prefer this way of learning reading skills, largely because of the way it allows them to become more engrossed in longer, more complex texts.

If you have any questions about this change to our teaching, do not hesitate to speak to me, Mr. Shaughnessy or your child's teacher.

We thank you for your continued support.

Miss Hill
Literacy Co-ordinator