

Headteacher

John Galvin

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this message finds you well. As we are now well into another exciting year at Petworth CofE Primary, I want to take a moment to emphasise the vital role that reading plays in your child's education and overall development, and to direct you to resources available.

Reading is a cornerstone of lifelong learning. Research shows that children who read widely and for pleasure are more likely to perform better in school. Reading helps children develop a broader vocabulary, improve their comprehension skills and enhance their critical thinking abilities. Perhaps more importantly, reading is a way for children to explore and reflect upon the world around them, encouraging empathy and connection, and providing lifelong joy.

There are many ways to ensure your child has access to books: At our school we have a wide range of books any child can borrow, whether it is in our library or in the classroom. In addition, libraries offer a wealth of resources, including borrowing programs and reading events. Petworth Library is an invaluable resource for our town. Further details can be found at <https://arena.westsussex.gov.uk/-/petworth-library#/?location=Petworth%20Library>.

Supporting your child at home

We encourage you to set aside time for reading together at home. Here are a few strategies to make reading a shared experience:

- **Daily reading routine:** Dedicate 10-20 minutes each day for reading, whether it's a book, magazine, or article of interest. This consistency helps build a habit.
- **Discuss what you read:** Ask questions about the story, characters, or themes. This encourages critical thinking and makes reading an engaging dialogue.
- **Explore different genres:** Introduce your child to various types of literature, including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and graphic novels. This diversity can spark their interest and broaden their horizons.
- **Be a reading role-model:** Let your child see you read. Sharing your own reading experiences can inspire them to discover new books and authors.

Thank you for your continued support in fostering a thriving learning environment. If you have any questions or would like additional resources on how to encourage reading at home, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Neary
Assistant Headteacher