

HOME READING



Dear Parents,

Our home reading program throughout our Grades is now in place.

Children will be selecting books from the coloured tubs to take home and read with you.

You will notice there is a coloured dot on the front or back of your child's Home Reading Book. This corresponds with the coloured tub your child is selecting books from. Your child will be choosing their 'take home reader' from their coloured tub.

Each coloured tub is made up of a selection of reading material including little books, simple chapter books, picture books etc.

The aim of our home reading program **is not for children to read more difficult books as quickly as possible**, but rather to enjoy reading and being read to and practise some of the skills and strategies they have learnt at school. Home reading should be a relaxed and enjoyable experience. If for any reason you don't have time to share a book with your child one evening, please do not feel you have to rush to read it in order to change the book the next day. Feel free to keep a book and read it at a time that is relaxed and enjoyable for you and your child or re-read a book again if it has been enjoyed by your child. Children should also read a book more than once to consolidate their skills and become confident readers.

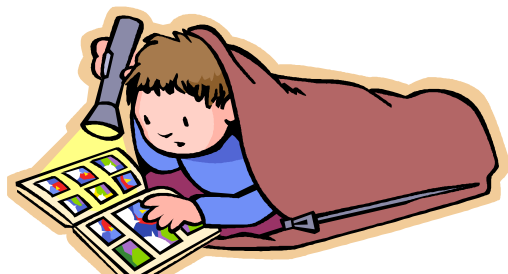
Many of the books that children bring home as home readers will be books that they will find fairly easy to read. In class, children will read at a higher level of difficulty as specific skills and reading strategies are taught. Home Reading is aimed at enjoyment and practise and because of this, children will be reading books they can read competently and with confidence in order to practise a range of reading behaviours without struggling with the text, the most important of these being comprehension. Children may read a book more than once, in fact it is recommended that a child read a book up to three times before moving on.

Please take the time to read the information about reading To, With and By, on the back of this sheet. You will also find some ideas for discussing books with your child.

If you have any questions or would like any further information please don't hesitate to speak with us.

Peter McBain

Information for this letter is taken from materials written by
Heidi Bush Educational Consultant Catholic Ed Office.



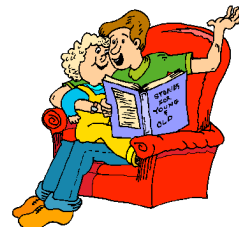
To, With and By

To

Sometimes your child may bring home a text that is too difficult for them to read independently, such as a picture book. This is a good opportunity for you to read the book **to** your child. Being read to is a vital part of children's reading development. By reading to your child you are:

- 📖 modelling an enjoyment in reading
- 📖 demonstrating what a fluent reader sounds like
- 📖 modelling expressive reading

These are skills that children can learn from hearing others.



With

If the text is one that your child can read parts of, while some parts may be too difficult, this is an opportunity for you to read **with** your child. You may read parts of the text and allow your child to read parts. You may leave off the end of sentences for your child to read or encourage your child to read familiar words.

When reading with your child you are:

- 📖 creating an enjoyable shared reading experience
- 📖 supporting your child by helping when needed and joining in the experience with them

By

Some texts will be easier for your child to read, and can be read **by** your child. If your child can read the text independently, this is an opportunity for you to take them a step further with discussion and "book talk".

If the text can be read by your child you can:

- 📖 celebrate their achievement
- 📖 encourage expression - How would that character's voice sound? How could we read the exciting / scary / funny parts?
- 📖 discuss the content of the text
 - What happened in the story?
 - Where could we go to find some more information about that?
 - What did you learn?
 - Why do you think that character did that?
 - Why do you think the author chose that title?
 - How did the illustrations help the story?

The aim of home reading is **practise and enjoyment**. We do not expect you to teach your child at home. The time you spend creating an enjoyable experience in which children can practise skills and strategies they have learnt at school is important and appreciated.

When your child brings a book home, you may decide if it is something you will read **to** your child, **with** your child or that can be read **by** your child.

Above all, make it an enjoyable and positive experience.