

**CLARITY AROUND 'WILD ABOUT READING'**

**HEADTEACHER:** Mr S Holmes

Parents/Carers,

We have had several parents/carers over the past few days raise concern with our Wild About Reading reward system, so I'd like to provide some clarity on our approach to avoid any misunderstanding.

Last year, our Wild About Reading reward system, which had been in place at the school for several years, was where children had their reading records stamped if they read 3 times at home during the full 7 day week. The class with the highest % of children who had achieved a stamp were rewarded with time in the wild area. During the year, I identified a personal concern with this, and that there were many children in classes throughout school who read religiously at home each week, getting their stamp, but due to other children in their class not doing so, would never get the highest % and therefore never get the reward, this was unfair.

I also have personal concern if any sanctions are given due to children not reading at home, such as children reading at break or lunchtimes or missing out on curriculum activities because of this. Again, this is not fair.

Therefore, we identified a way in which any individual child who does read 3 times a week at home is given a small reward in recognition of this. Again, we have avoided materialistic rewards or badges / certificates which would create competition and cause potential upset, so instead, each phase has an allocated 15 minute slot in the wild area each week where any children who have their stamp for reading 3 times go and enjoy this time. This time in the wild area does not replace any other wild area time which we regularly use for curriculum learning, all children still use this space for their learning regularly in school.

Children who do not achieve their stamp for that week stay in class with a teacher from that phase and complete curriculum activities for that 15 minutes. These are engaging and relevant to their learning targets. They are not sanctioned with any reading during this time as we are fully aware that this would not promote a love of reading.

We are also mindful that we are rewarding children for reading 3 times, not for them or parents remembering a reading record on a set day. This is something we accept has not been consistent across school over the last few weeks. Teachers will now regularly check children's reading records throughout the week, noting on our tracking system when they have read 3 times. This means if their wild about reading time is a Thursday, they just need to read any time between Thursday evening and the following Thursday, which may be Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The record will be checked regularly, so not having it on the day of the reward time should not be a barrier if they have already read 3 times. There will obviously be occasions when things are forgotten and we don't want your child to not receive a reward they are entitled to, so please communicate with your child's class teacher on dojo.

We appreciate an initiative like this will not please everyone or be agreed with, but we believe it is a fair and appropriate reward system to encourage children to continue their reading at home and develop their skills in the most important area of the school curriculum.

If you have any further questions or queries, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you,

Mr Holmes



Headteacher