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Year 6 Reading Challenge

Dear Parents/Carers,

We know our children love a challenge, so as from Monday 13th November, Year 6 will be taking part in a reading challenge with your support.

As from Monday 13th November for 5 weeks, the children will be expected to read for at least **20 minutes every night**, from a book of their choice. This will replace the reading the children were expected to do for their guided reading, as this half term our class novel is considerably shorter. The book can be from home or one can be taken from our class library. Once the children have read for at least 20 minutes, we are asking that parents sign the planner for that day to indicate that you have seen your child reading. On entering class the next morning, the children will open their planners and have an adult check for a signature. For every 6 children who get their planner signed at home to show that they have read, one star will be moved along our reward chart.

We are hoping that this will be fun for the children, but also address some of the concerns raised at parents' evening about children not wanting to read at home. Sometimes, all it takes is a gentle push to get children to realise that reading for pleasure is fun; and what better way than a competition and your teachers doing the gentle push!

The competition and benefits have been shared with the children, including the benefits on their mental well-being. On the back of this letter there is some statistical information which shows the difference between those children who read for just 20 minutes and those who do not. This will be shared with the children and displayed in class.

Can we thank you for your continuing support and let the competition commence (you may even want to join in with the 20 minutes yourselves!).

Regards

Sarah Wilde & Amy Corp

Working with the Diocese of Leeds and the Metropolitan Borough of Calderdale



Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student "A"
reads **20 minutes**
each day

3600 minutes in
a school year

1,800,000 words



90th percentile

Student "B"
reads **5 minutes**
each day

900 minutes in
a school year

282,000 words



50th percentile

Student "C"
reads **1 minute**
each day

180 minutes in
a school year

8,000 words



10th percentile

By the end of 6th grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Nagy & Herman, 1987)

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*6th grade is Year 7 in the UK.