



9<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am just writing to let you know about how we teach reading at Village Primary because it is a key priority for us. Reading plays a part in every subject and the better children read the more prepared they will be for the next stages in their life.

Children start by learning phonics when they are ready in Early Years. Staff teach the children new sounds each day using our new phonics scheme called 'Floppy's Phonics'. This is the same scheme that produces the Biff, Chip and Kipper books so it is a trusted phonics programme. Books are closely matched to sounds taught so if they learn the 'ay' sound they will have a book matched to this. Crucially, now, children must not see sounds in books that they have not been taught before. As a result, children will find books easier and some children may feel less challenged. This is deliberate and is a government directive. In school, regularly, teachers change books and read with children daily. This can be in groups or on a 1:1 basis. Reading is a key part of the day in every class in school.

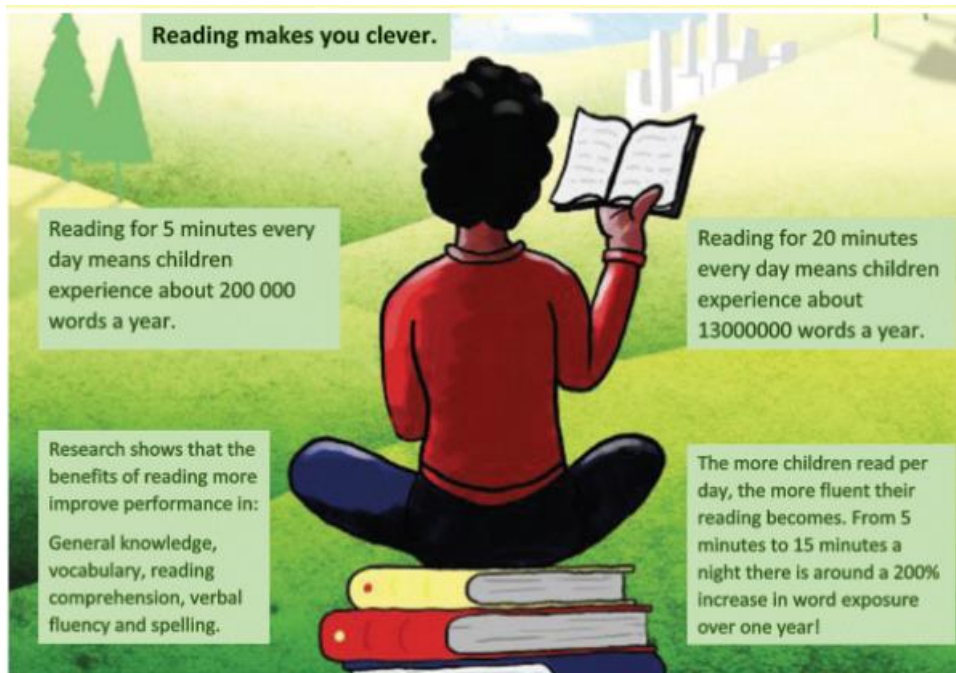
Once children can read, the job of teaching reading is not finished. Instead, then children work on learning new vocabulary and understanding what they read. This gives them new knowledge and skills. **This means that it is important to read with your child as often as you can.** I read with my boys every night with a book that interests them. I read my boys books on dinosaurs, football or classic stories like 'The Gruffalo'. This is 10 minutes every night and makes a massive difference to their acquisition of vocabulary and their passive listening skills. As I have mentioned before, sometimes they don't want to read, which is understandable after a hard day at school, but I insist because it stops them falling behind.

Since coming back after the lockdowns, reading has been a school priority and I am pleased to say that the children are making good progress. School spends money wisely on new books and materials that help children to read because it is so important.

\*continued overleaf



Please keep reading with the children at home and feel free to ask staff for advice on any reading issue.



Yours sincerely,

R Birtwhistle.  
Head Teacher.