



The Eliot Bank and Gordonbrock Schools Federation



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Dear Parent/Carer,

Today, your child has brought home their reading journal and a book from class to enjoy.

You will notice a change, which is in response to the feedback we received in the home learning survey we conducted last year. We recognise that the previous journals have, perhaps, had their day. We hope you find the new journal to be a useful and straightforward means to record your child's progress in reading at home. They include top tips, age-appropriate question prompts for you, word lists relevant to your child's key stage and a section to note new words they come across in their reading.

Journals will be checked weekly by your child's class teacher or TA, and we read and value the commentary you record about your child's efforts through the week. If your child is in Year 2 to 5 and you would like to encourage them to be more independent, you may allow them to complete entries in the journal. This should be done under adult direction and supervision and, at the very least, be signed by an adult, too. For children in Reception and Year 1, we ask that an adult completes entries in their child's journal.

Studies show that reading for pleasure makes a big difference to children's educational performance. Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures.

To help your child develop a love of reading:

- Establish a regular time and place for daily reading, such as before bedtime
- Let your child make a reading den!
- Keep a variety of reading materials available – for example, picture books, fiction, non-fiction, chapter books, atlases, dictionaries, magazines
- Join the library and make regular trips
- Share your own experiences of books with your child – for example, talking about your favourite book
- Read yourself – your child will follow your example
- Involve your child in reading or writing for specific purposes, as well as pleasure – for example, creating shopping lists

Your child's new class teacher will share home learning expectations in the Parent Meetings over the next two weeks, and we will ensure this information is on the school website for your reference.

Yours,

Ms Quinn
Assistant Headteacher
and Literacy Team Leader

Miss McGuire
Deputy Headteacher for
Curriculum and Assessment

