

Wk Beg; 4th October 2021

Dear Parents,

We are beginning our Early Years reading initiative to try and further develop the children's love of reading so that they will hopefully be asking you to listen to them read rather than the other way round.

Every half term, we will offer each child in Early Years the opportunity to 'adopt a reading bear.' However, there is 1 condition for their adoption! These bears like to be read to every day (just 5 mins morning or evening) and will only go home with those children who agree to read to their bears on a daily basis. They will get a special adoption certificate which they will sign/draw a picture on to represent their agreement to read to their bears. The bears will be brought back in in December to be swapped so that a new bear can be adopted (these will be isolated before moving to a new home).

Every time they read to their bear (and you!) we would like you to date and initial their 'Reading Journal'. As well as your child moving their reading parrot through the jungle to try and get to the Lion King (for which they receive a certificate and £5 book voucher from Mrs Morris!) we will give each child who reads a token for our class jar every time they read. When the jar is completely full, each class will earn themselves a, 'Teddy Bear's Picnic!'

Sadly, due to Covid restrictions we have not been able to invite parents in to help their child 'choose' which reading bear they'd like to adopt but instead, we've allowed the children to choose their reading bear in school and this is the bear/ted they have brought home tonight.

The children are very excited about being able to adopt a bear. We are always keen to have any parent/grandparent help to support listening to readers throughout the school. If you know of anyone who may be able to offer a morning/afternoon or even an hour of their time to help support children with their reading (subject to a DBS check) then please get in touch with us. A DBS is a simple procedure which we can carry out for you in school with just a few documents that you'll need to bring in.

Many thanks

The Early Years Team