



21st September 2018

Dear Parents

Year 5 Set 1 Reading List

By the time they reach Year 5, children, certainly those in set 1, have moved off reading schemes and can be considered to be 'free' readers. This is exciting, not least because we are, in my opinion, living through a 'golden age' of children's literature. I have found over the years, however, that simply encouraging the children to read as widely as possible and to take advantage of the marvellous books available, is not quite enough in a minority of cases.

My solution to the problem has been to set a reading list covering a wide range of authors and genres. The list, this term, consists of 55 books by 55 different authors. The authors are chosen carefully so that, if a child really likes a book from the list, he/she will usually find it easy to locate further books by the same author in the future. The target I have set the children in set 1 is to read at least six of the books on the list by Christmas. This does not look, at first glance, to be a particularly daunting target, but it needs to be remembered that a) books get longer as the children get older and b) the other demands on their time (homework, clubs, out of school activities, playing for School teams etc.) become greater as they get older. Having stated that, it is also true that one child managed to read 42 books on the reading list once! There is, in fact, no need for children to carry on with the reading list once they have read six books; at this stage some will prefer to make their own alternative choices, though many in the past have continued with the list, partly as a matter of convenience, but also because it enables them to share reading experiences and recommendations with others in the class.

I 'launched' the reading list for Set 1 on Friday 7th September so that they could get started on the task and a copy has been posted on Firefly for them to refer to if necessary. I attach it here for your information.

If you have any questions about the reading list, or, indeed about any aspect of your child's English work generally, then please do contact me or come and see me.

Yours sincerely

David Hall
Director of Studies