



9th September 2014

Dear Parent/Guardian

This session the whole school is placing a large emphasis on active literacy with all pupils from primary 1 to 7 in order to improve confidence and results within standardised assessments (ePIPs/INCaS). To ensure that all pupils have opportunities to develop all of the skills required to attain well in reading we need your understanding and help to implement active literacy effectively.

We will focus on phonics and spelling activities and place particular emphasis on improving reading comprehension. Pupils who are proficient readers use a range of strategies during text comprehension. Some pupils begin to use these strategies spontaneously but a large proportion need to spend time having these explained, taught and time given to practising them.

These strategies include:

- Use of prior knowledge / knowledge of text structure
- Fluent word recognition and decoding
- Knowledge of vocabulary and vocabulary choice
- Visualising scenes or parts of the story
- Reading “between the lines” and “around” the text
- Identifying main ideas and summarising the story
- Persistence to achieve

Last session, some classes successfully implemented the spelling and reading strands of active literacy. Assessment results of the spelling strand indicated a very positive impact. The reading strand will be evaluated during this school session. We are now adopting this approach as a whole school.

One of the key aspects of the approach to reading is to re-read the text in order to analyse it more fully and allow more related classwork to take place. Re-reading the text in order to analyse it more fully allows a great deal more work to happen within the class to promote all of the key strategies listed above with the aim of further raising attainment. You may also notice that children do not simply follow a stage of reading through until all books are read and some books may seem quite easy for your child to read.

We are therefore asking for your patience and understanding so that we can embed this approach across the school. Should you wish your child to read more at home then please promote your child’s reading for enjoyment eg choosing a book from the local library, reading it with you or explaining its characterisation/plot to you.

We will of course monitor the approach closely over the course of the session. However, as always, should you wish to discuss this further then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Jennifer Garnes

Head Teacher