



# Ravenscote Junior School

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## Reading at Ravenscote

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Ravenscote we are emersed in reading every day. Reading is fundamental to unlocking the curriculum and becoming a fluent reader is paramount to us. We aim for a holistic approach towards reading, with Reading for Pleasure underpinning this as a key motivator.

The National Literacy Trust’s research shows that, *‘reading for pleasure can support reading, and wider literacy skills, wellbeing, empathy, confidence and aptitude for learning.’* There are many benefits to nurturing a love of reading. It is a tangible way to equip children with their reading skills they need to thrive in school and beyond, as well as empower them with the chance to discover new things, both about the world around them and people and cultures they may not yet know and explore their sense of self.

As part of your child’s home learning, we advise that your child reads to an adult a minimum of:

- Year 3**- 3 times a week for 10 mins.
- Year 4**- 3 times a week for 20 mins.
- Year 5**- 3 times a week for 20 mins.
- Year 6** – 5 times a week for 20 mins

**Please record home reads and make any comments** so that the class teacher can monitor progress and time spent reading to inform the overall assessments made about your child’s reading journey. Extensive research has shown that the more a child reads, the more fluent they become, in turn unlocking the entire curriculum and opportunities in life.

### 7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home

Shared reading is a great way to develop children's language and communication and to boost their reading skills. Regular reading routines can offer lots of opportunities for learning during school closures.

- 1 Concentrate on reading quality (it isn't all about reading lots!)**

Don't worry too much about the 'what' and 'how' of reading each day. Books are great—but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions on a webpage can all be great too. Following a recipe to make some cupcakes is valuable reading. Be on the lookout for reading, wherever it is!
- 2 Ask your child lots of questions**

All reading matters. Shared reading is about 'reading with', not just 'reading to' (even for older children). So, ask lots of 'Why' questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example, 'what do you think Harry is feeling?'
- 3 Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read**

If it is a book, look at the front cover—or the last chapter—and talk about what might happen next. Look for clues in the book and be a reading detective! For example, 'can you see the bear on the front cover? Where do you think he will go?'
- 4 Ask your child to summarise what they have read**

When you've finished reading, talk about what happened. Acting out the things that happened in the story or describing the big idea of a chapter is really fun and maximises learning. For example, 'can you remember all the things that happened on the bear hunt?'
- 5 Ask your child to write about what they have read**

Write, or draw pictures, from anything you've read! Big writing and pictures are even more fun. For example, use an old roll of wallpaper to make a treasure map with clues from the stories you've read together.
- 6 Read and discuss reading with friends or family**

Make books a part of the family. Encourage your child to share them with a relative or friend, over a video call. Laugh about them when you are making meals together. For example, 'I hope the tiger doesn't come to tea today!'
- 7 Maintain the motivation to read**

Talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Your child is on an amazing journey to becoming a reader. Put them in the driving seat and have fun on the way! For example, 'choose your favourite story for bedtime tonight.'





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Your child will be assessed and given either a **Read Write Inc Book Bag Book**, or a **colour banded book** that is appropriate to their reading level. Please note that we assess word reading level and **COMPREHENSION**. It may be that your child is able to read the book confidently and accurately, however, their comprehension of the texts at this level may need developing. Can they comprehend what they are reading? Are they able to recall the story/ key facts? Do they understand the vocabulary used? Are they able to infer information from the text (reading between the lines)? Can they summarise or give an opinion about what they have read?

Here is a **guide to our Book Band levels** (please note that this is different to the Read Write Inc Book Band Levels). Once the children reach Black Band, we refer to them as Raven Readers and they are able to choose from our wide range of high quality of texts and/ or they can bring in a text from home, but we do ask that this is a high-quality text to continue to develop their comprehension and vocabulary.

Book Band	Emerging	Expected	Confident Exceeding	Super Confident Exceeding
Lilac (Level 0)	Reception			
Pink (Level 1)		Reception		
Red (Level 2)	Year 1	Reception		
Yellow (Level 3)	Year 1	Reception		
Blue (Level 4)		Year 1	Reception	
Green (Level 5)	Year 2	Year 1	Reception	
Orange (Level 6)	Year 2	Year 1		
Turquoise (Level 7)		Year 2	Year 1	
Purple (Level 8)		Year 2	Year 1	
Gold (Level 9)		Year 2	Year 1	
White (Level 10)	Year 3	Year 2	Year 2	
Lime (Level 11)	Year 3, Year 4		Year 2	
Brown (Level 12)	Year 4, Year 5	Year 3	Year 2	
Grey (Level 13)	Year 5, Year 6	Year 4	Year 3	Year 2
Dark Blue (Level 14)	Year 6	Year 5	Year 4	Year 3
Dark Red (Level 15)		Year 6	Year 5	Year 4
Black (Level 16)			Year 6	Year 5
Black Plus (Level 17)				Year 6





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At Ravenscote, we follow the **Read Write Inc phonics scheme**. This synthetic phonics programme is systematically taught through every year group across the school in any curriculum area where they are reading or writing. Children may be invited to join a Read Write Inc intervention in Years 3 and 4, whereby they will be tutored in small groups or 1:1 to make accelerated progress in their phonics, reading and spelling. In Years 5 and 6 we run the Read Write Inc Fresh Start interventions for phonics, reading and spelling. If your child is participating in these interventions, it will be communicated via their handbooks.



They will also choose a '**Reading for Pleasure**' text, this may be a book from home, from our Book Bus or from our class libraries. This is a text that they can enjoy in school during our 'Book Talk' sessions. These sessions are built into the children's week, so they can explore their own reading journey, share and recommend texts with their peers and generally develop their love of reading.

**The Book Bus** has an abundance of high quality, up-to-date texts which the children can borrow. The Book Bus club is now up and running every lunchtime. Children are encouraged to come along and choose a book to read for pleasure. The children are able to borrow up to three books from the school at a time. Please could we encourage your child/ children to return books when they are finished with them. Last year we did unfortunately lose 94 books from just one year group.

## Summer Reading Challenge

A MASSIVE congratulations to all of the children that completed the summer reading challenge. We had 108 children submit their reading records for the summer and all names were added to the hat. The lucky winner was chosen at random, and that lucky winner was Luisa in Year 4.



## The Book Fair

The book fair will be returning to the school hall during Parent Consultation Evenings. This is a cashless event. The money raised from the sales will be used to purchase more texts for the Book Bus and class shelves. Any book requests can be made on the Book Bus.

Best regards  
Mrs Galloway  
Specialist Reading Teacher and Reading Subject Lead

