



# Henry Chadwick Community Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

## **RE: Our Inspiring Reading Adventure!**

Here at Henry Chadwick, we are always striving to enhance the learning experience for all our learners and are therefore delighted to announce some exciting changes to our reading provision over the coming terms.

Research shows that children who read regularly not only excel in reading and comprehension (which sets them up for life-long learning and achievement) but also have an increased knowledge of grammar conventions, are more likely to stay in education beyond 18, show a dramatic improvement in their writing skills and across the curriculum, and even have better mental health moving into adulthood. With this in mind, it is easy to see why reading takes such a high priority in our school.

I am sure by now you have noticed some of the changes we have already implemented in reading this year, including increasing the frequency with which children are heard read in school, the improved communication between home and school regarding progress in reading, and the high-resolution focus on superb guided reading lessons.

However, there are even more improvements to come this term, which I am excited to be able to share with you today. Firstly, we have implemented a new assessment system, which gives learners a personalised 'zone of proximal development', which we can then use to tailor the resources and learning we offer so that it meets your child's needs exactly at this point in their development. The zone of proximal development (ZPD) measure suggests the range from which a learner should be selecting books for optimal growth in reading without frustration, allowing them to achieve success and nurture a love of reading.

We will be using each learner's ZPD to signpost them towards the right books for them at each stage of their learning journey. As such, we have completely reorganised our library and Key Stage 1 reading scheme to make this possible; we are also adding exciting new titles to our book stock to ensure we have the best texts available. The ZPD will also be used to organise learners in guided reading and ensure that the texts they access are pitched accurately to promote optimal growth.

Whilst we recognise that a minority of learners may be signposted towards books which are slightly easier than they have been previously used to, this is deliberate in order to enable them to rapidly enhance their skills of comprehension. Research shows us that, to develop a good level of understanding, a text has to have a readability level of at least 90%, meaning that learners can easily read approximately 90% of the words on a page; as such, a slightly easier text will enable this to develop more rapidly and help learners to keep pace as the texts increase in difficulty. Experience shows that this minor change creates exceptionally rapid progress back through the stages, so please don't worry if this affects your child.

We will also be utilising 'Accelerated Reader - Book Quizzes' as part of our revised reading programme. These book quizzes assess the level of comprehension for each learner at the end of each book. By answering 5 - 10 questions, we can ensure that they have understood the text at a deeper level to further promote their progress.

Finally, I ask again for your support to develop learners' reading stamina, and ensure that these new changes impact directly on their outcomes. Regular reading both at home and in school will inevitably lead to greater progress, and so I thank you for your continued efforts in reading regularly with your child and commenting in their planners. We encourage all learners to read to an adult at home every day wherever possible, and each class will be offering house points and other rewards to learners who read regularly at home. To ensure we are able to recognise their achievements and target provision and support effectively, we simply ask that you ensure your child's reading books and planners are available in school every day.

I am sure that I can count on your support moving forwards as we strive for excellence in reading for all our learners. However, if you do have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher directly. I again offer my thanks for all you do in support of the school, and I am confident that this project will lead to an even more incredible learning adventure for everyone at Henry Chadwick.

With very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a long horizontal line with a series of loops and a small flourish at the end.

Mr Chris Gaffiney  
**Executive Headteacher**