

Friday 28th April 2023

Somerville News

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AIMING HIGH TOGETHER



THE IMPORTANCE OF READING AT HOME – READ TO SUCCEED

As you are all aware we are 'A READING SCHOOL'. As a staff team we are passionate about teaching your children to read and opening up the world of possibilities being a reader brings. However, it doesn't matter how skilled we are in the teaching of reading, reading at home will give your child a huge advantage at school. **Parents and carers are the most powerful influence** on their children's love of reading. Your role is that important. A child who has enjoyable experiences with books at home has greater literacy skills, a more developed attention span, a greater knowledge of vocabulary and is developing their empathetic skills, in summary, building their ability to be successful at school. Reading is a complex skill and is a process that requires **LOTS** of practice in and out of school.

In this newsletter we hope to share some tips and strategies to become 'A READING FAMILY' benefitting your child now in the years to come. Each family is unique and will develop these strategies and make them their own.

Read with your child, the more the better! Dedicate reading (bonding) time to sit down or curl up together to look at, talk about and read a good book. Research does back up the fact that just 15 minutes a day, reading with your child can mean improved learning throughout school and lead to a lifelong love of books. Build reading into your routine. Life is busy and hectic and if reading is not scheduled, it won't happen. By putting it into your routine you are establishing an expectation. It becomes a regular activity which your child will look forward to. Many families choose to read at bedtime. It is a chance to turn off the tech before bedtime which also has the benefit of aiding much better sleep. However, the most important thing is that you pick a time that works for both you and your child and that it happens often and consistently. Have books around the house, close at hand and where your child likes to spend time.

Reading is not just about being able to read it's about understanding language, getting joy from the words and finding out new information. It is important that you talk to child before, during and after you read. Engage your child in conversation about the story. You can make links to the child's own experiences, places visited etc. If your child doesn't understand a word, take time to explain the meaning to them. Ask them questions: Who is your favourite character and why? How do you think the story will end? Did you like the way the story ended? When doing this children are participating, reflecting and recalling. All of these skills are so important in reading comprehension and success at school. Choose a place that is quiet and peaceful with no distractions. They won't be able to concentrate on the book or you if there is lots of background noise.

Dates for you Diary

Monday 1st May

School closed May Day
Bank holiday Monday

Friday 5th May

School coronation
celebration. Wear red
whit and / or blue

Monday 8th May

Extra Bank holiday
Monday. School
closed for coronation

Tuesday 9th - Friday 12th May

Key Stage 2 SATs week

Friday 26th May

School closes for half
term at 3.20pm

Monday 5th June

School closed for inset
day

Tuesday 6th June

School opens for
pupils

Wednesday 19th July

Last day of school for





The younger the child, it will be the parent reading to the child with lots of talk about the pictures. When a child starts to read they will be wanting to read their reading book themselves however they will still need stories read to them. Older children still benefit and enjoy being read to. We still read aloud daily to our Year 6's as well as them reading their own books for pleasure. They often beg for the next chapter of the book to be read to them.

Going to the local library will help however please remember we have a well stocked school library which we encourage children to use. All we ask is that books are brought back to school when they have been finished.

Over the summer term we will be regularly checking every child's reading record to ensure they are getting that valuable home practice.

Have a look at the Family Reading Checklist which will be sent on a separate text. Build on what your child does at school and help them grow as a reader.

Let's work together to make our children FLY today and in the future!

CORONATION CELEBRATION REMINDER



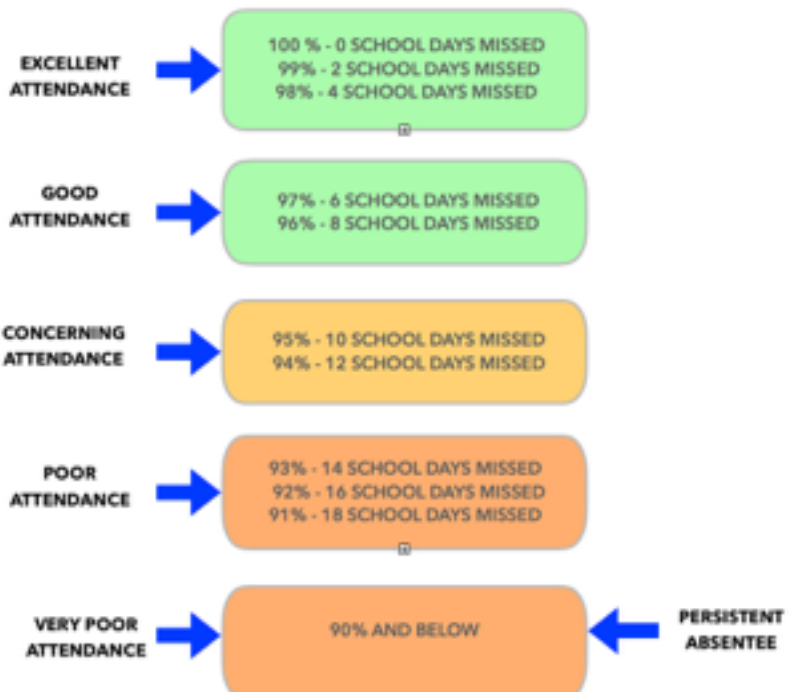
Just a quick reminder that on FRIDAY 5th MAY we will be celebrating the coronation of King Charles III.

We invite our school community to wear red, white and / or blue on the day. The school dinner will be a packed lunch on this day as the whole school will be having a picnic at lunch time.

OTIS AFTER SCHOOL CLUB NOTICE

OTIS closes at 5.45pm. All children need to be picked up **BEFORE** this time. If staff have to stay behind after this time school has to pay for the staff members time and it is always a minimum of two staff. Therefore, if children are late being picked up, there will be an automatic charge of £10 added to your Parent Pay account each time.

BELOW IS A GUIDE TO EXPLAIN EXACTLY WHAT YOUR CHILD'S ATTENDANCE MEANS^{Sw}



ECO POSTER COMPETITION

All children are invited to design a poster about recycling waste paper. On the back of the poster please ensure the child writes their name and class. The posters will be displayed on the recycling bins in the classrooms. The top 5 winning posters will receive a prize and be displayed on our school eco board.

All entries must be handed in to Miss Smith or Miss Murray no later than **FRIDAY 5th MAY.**

We look forward to seeing them all!

