

## Holy Trinity Church of England Junior School

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**Exemplary education for all, through God's amazing grace**

**Learning, Integrity, Dignity, Love, Confidence.**

**Learning** together, as we journey with God in **Love**, we act with **Integrity**, treat others with **Dignity** and grow in **Confidence**.

Dear Parents,

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022

We just wanted to remind you about the online platform called Renaissance Reading. This system started in the Autumn Term and is used to better help us address the individual reading needs of each child. The platform helps us to assess each child's reading ability, provides guidance for their choice of books and allows us to track how well they are understanding what they are reading.

Once every half term, each child will complete an online reading assessment (called Star Reader). From this, each child will be given a numerical range - for example 3.3-4.5. This is referred to as their Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD)

The Zone of Proximal Development suggests the readability-level range from which a student should be selecting books for optimal growth in reading without frustration. The ZPD, however, is approximate. Success with any book also depends on the child's interest and prior knowledge of a book's content. Teachers and teaching assistants will use their professional judgement to adjust the level of books read to match an individual student's needs and interests e.g. using the child's test scores to suggest reading a book higher or lower within their range.

All of the books in school have been labelled according to their 'readability level' - which is a single decimal number such as 3.2 or 6.7. Children will choose a book that falls within their range from the class or year group book area. This book will then be read for a minimum of 10 minutes each evening as part of your child's homework. This process will mean that children will not be reading books that are either too easy or too difficult for them and also encourage them to read a wider variety of books rather than just reading from their 'comfort zone' of familiar authors or series (such as David Walliams or Harry Potter).

When they have finished reading the book, your child will need to complete an online quiz about its content. Initially, this will be completed in school, but eventually they will be able to complete these quizzes at home using their Chromebooks. Ideally, the quiz should be completed within 24 hours of finishing the book. This is purely so the children can remember as much as possible about what they have read.

These quizzes will support teachers in assessing how well your child is understanding what they are reading and allow us to put interventions in where needed to boost the progress of your child.

We are more than happy for children to also continue to read their own books as part of this process. The majority of children's books are on the system and your child's class teacher or teaching assistant will be able to check its level to see if it fits their ZPD range. If a book is outside their range, or isn't on the system, we will ask the child to choose a 'school' book to read alongside their personal choice of book.

We continue to ask you or your child to record their reading in their homework diary on a daily basis and to sign the book at the end of the week. Homework diaries will still be checked by a teaching assistant or the class teacher once a week to ensure every child is reading daily. Renaissance Reading has its own points system which we will be exploring in more detail once the children have begun to read a selection of books and we can see what this will look like for individual children.

Miss Brick

Miss Denman

Miss Foster



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SCHOOL

