

Sytchampton Endowed Primary School

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Dear parents,

First of all many thanks to those parents who attended the NSPCC parents' session on e-safety. This is such an important topic and there are links on our website for both parents and children (www.thinkuknow.co.uk). The main focus of the talk was having the right settings to limit access on devices so that children play age appropriate games securely.

KS2 SATS meeting for parents.

We will be holding a breakfast meeting for parents of year 6 pupils, this **Friday 2nd Feb** starting at 8.50am. This 20 minutes session will update you on the latest expectations of these statutory exams, how you can support your child and our plans from Feb half-term through to the exams in May.

Whole school reading focus.

This term we have been focusing on the assessment of reading and also the profile of reading in school. Our new Governor, Mr Stephens, has recently helped us complete questionnaires on reading with a sample of pupils. On the whole the results are very positive with many children understanding the importance of reading, talking about favourite books and going to the library and really enjoying the excitement of a good story.

However, some see reading as a competition: to go through the colour bands, and some children tell us that they only read in school and don't have time at home.

We aim to encourage children to really enjoy reading and research tells us: *'Every child will be more confident if he or she learns to read well. Every child can find a whole new world of interest, adventure, learning and fun, just by opening a book. Reading can change lives.'* Even in this digital age reading is so important.

BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN DO IS MAKE TIME FOR READING AND LET YOUR CHILD GO AT THEIR OWN PACE AND MOST OF ALL TALK ABOUT THE BOOK, THE PICTURES, CHARACTERS AND EVENTS.

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/parents-and-families> has lots of good advice. Reading can also be applied to everyday life: newspapers, magazines, menus, shopping lists etc.

What are we doing in school to promote reading?

- **The PTA** have donated some money for each class to re-vamp their reading corners.
- A donation from one of our families has enabled us to purchase more books.
- **World Book Day** (Thurs 1st March) will give us chance to focus on reading. Our dressing up theme, voted by the pupils, will be **SUPERHEROES**. This gives lots of scope and does not have to have a focus on comic book characters, anyone can be a 'superhero' e.g. favourite sports person, someone from history. As always we will have prizes for the best dressed.
- We are happy to support you if you have any queries and give assessment feedback on your child's reading at our parents consultations.

Parent Consultations.

These take place after half term with appointments running throughout the day from 8.00am – 5.45pm. Reception and KS1 on **Wednesday 21st March** and KS2 on **Thursday 22nd March**. If you have children in both key stages please talk to staff so that we can accommodate you after school on one day, if possible. Also if you cannot make these dates, then please see members of staff who will arrange an alternative.

As a reminder the opportunities for parents to meet with staff are:-

October Open Morning	Parent open morning to give you the opportunity to see learning in action all through the school.
October Parent consultations	To discuss move to new class, settling in and baseline assessment.
March Parent Consultations	Parents Consultations to look at attainment and progress and discuss testing in year 1, year 2 and Year 6.
Celebration assemblies – held fortnightly.	We share with parents a celebration of achievements, good behaviour, and curriculum trips.
Website	We try to keep you updated with events, calendar and important links.
Parents Information Sessions	New parents, Early years reading, SATs update, E Safety, transition to Secondary school.
July Final report transition	Final end of year report to parents Children have a transition week to get to know new teachers and we plan to have a meeting for parents to discuss transition across the school.

Attendance.

At parent consultations we always report on your child's attendance. Please support us in ensuring that your child is in school on time since attendance really matters. We aim at Sytchampton to be above the national guideline of 95%, but some children are falling below 90%. Whilst we appreciate there has been a very nasty flu bug around, please support us by informing us of the reasons for absence and keep any requests for absence to a minimum. 90% missed attendance = 4 weeks of missed learning and causes gaps in key skills.

PTA

We end our half term with the PTA **Family Valentines disco on Fri 16th Feb from 2-3pm** which will include the lottery draw and a special raffle for parents. This will also include the next 'Bake off' which is **Sandys House** (Sylvesters will have another chance later in the term due to the disruption from snow days).

Thank you for your continued support,

Sharon Williams