



THAKEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL
Rock Road
Storrington
West Sussex
RH20 3AA

Headteacher: Mr L. McDonald
Assistant Headteacher: Mrs E. Hopkins
Inclusion Co-ordinator: Mrs A. Mullineux
Tel: 01903 740176

Email: office@thakehamps.co.uk
Web: <http://www.thakehamps.co.uk>

'Small School, Big Opportunities, Great Achievements'

Monday 21st November, 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Reading at Thakeham

Reading is absolutely fundamental. Without it, a person will struggle to access much of what supports them through any given day. The same goes for in school with our curriculum. We see reading as THE KEY to unlocking all learning and everyone in the Thakeham Community is committed to the notion that all pupils should be able to read fluently by the time they leave us. Furthermore, we are clear about and ambitious for every Learner to leave us for Secondary School with a love of reading firmly in their mind.

I would like to take a moment to tell you about how we teach reading here at Thakeham.

In class, every child in Acorns receives daily phonics teaching. Children in Oak get this four times a week. We teach phonics in a systematic way, carefully going over sounds and then re-learning them. Children are then asked to apply them in a variety of different contexts – from reading books to spelling when writing. We use a scheme called ReadWriteInc to teach phonics.

Children in Oak, Maple and Elder take part in specific reading lessons four times a week. These lessons look at a variety of skills; all designed to support the childrens' ability to comprehend what they are reading. We teach the children that everything they do in reading sessions supports their writing too as the skills are intertwined.

On top of the above, fostering a real love of reading is important. The curiosity and vocabulary building that comes from wanting to delve into a variety of texts is invaluable. With this in mind, we have introduced a new reading awards scheme for the books sent home with pupils. This replaces what we had in place. Children will receive an award at each of the stages below:

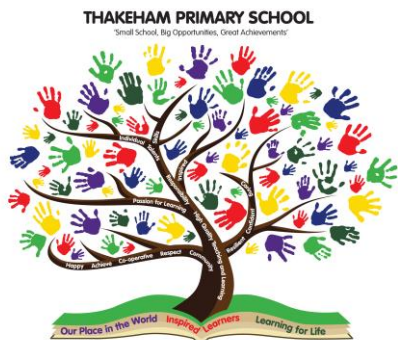
Bronze: 50 reads at home

Silver: 100 reads

Gold: 150 reads

When it is clear that the pupil has read these many times, an award will be given to them in assembly!





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We have already handed out a couple and the children were really excited about it. We would be grateful if you could support us in our endeavour to ensure the teaching of reading is the best it can be by reading at home with your children, asking them about texts they are reading and supporting them to see reading is important.

Look out for the new reading awards!

Take care,

Mr McDonald
Headteacher

