

The Calder Learning Trust

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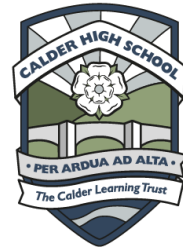
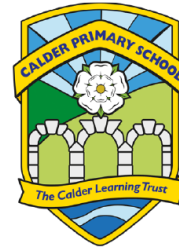
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Head of The Calder Learning Trust - Mr A Guise

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28th September 2023

Reading Books

Dear Parents,

At Calder Primary School we use the Read Write Inc (RWI) programme to get children off to a flying start with their literacy in EYFS and Key Stage 1 which includes the RWI book bag books. Following on from this, we use the Oxford Reading Tree Treetops Scheme typically from Years 3-6.

We have a wide selection of TreeTops books including 'in fact' (non-fiction) 'chucklers' (humorous stories selected by author Jeremy Strong) and 'greatest stories' which are a wide range of stories including diverse themes and from significant children's authors selected by author Michael Morpurgo. These books follow the nationally recognised book band scheme and ensure children are building and developing their reading skills right through primary school to enable them to become adept and confident readers ahead of Key Stage 3.

Reading opens the door to learning. A child who reads a lot will become a good reader. A good reader will be able to read more challenging material. A child who reads challenging material is a child who will learn. The more a child learns, the more he or she will want to find out! Ruth Miskin, Read, Write Inc

We believe that daily reading is the single most important thing you can do with your child at home to support them with their learning. We know that in Key Stage 2, once children are confident readers, they often read independently instead of to an adult. We absolutely recognise the value of reading for pleasure, and so children will be bringing home 2 books each week:

Staged (Book Band) Reading Books

All pupils in Years 3-6 will bring home a staged reading book. Their starting stage has been determined by an NGRT (National Group Reading Test) reading assessment which pupils have recently completed as well as from their teacher's assessments of their recent reading in school.

Please bring this book into school every day so that it is available for reading with staff in school as well.

All school books have been stamped with 'from the library of Calder Primary' and we would ask that they are please looked after carefully at home so they don't get damaged or lost.

Some pupils in Year 3 might still be consolidating their reading from Key Stage 1 during the autumn term and may bring home a RWI Book Bag Book. Please don't worry about this and please support

your child to build their confidence, fluency and speed with reading these. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

Reading Books for Pleasure

Each class has a library time each week where they can browse the library and enjoy sharing books together. They can then choose a book to take home for reading for pleasure, which might be fiction, non-fiction or poetry. They can keep this book until they have finished reading it (which might be longer than a week) and don't need to bring this one in every day. Please return these books on library days:

Class 2: Friday

Class 3: Monday

Children are also able to visit the library during the week for reading for pleasure books to read in school as well and each class has a daily class story time session to share a wide variety of books and discuss them together.

How often should my child be reading?

Our aim is for all children to read at home **every day**. Ideally this would be **10-15 minutes** of reading their staged reading book aloud to an adult, with time to share their reading for pleasure books at bedtime or during quiet time. We know this is not always possible but would ask that children are reading aloud to an adult at home **at least 4 times a week** (this includes during the week and the weekend). Reading with adults in school is in addition to this, not instead of.

Please complete their reading record to note when they have read and which pages. A comment is not necessary unless there is anything particular you would like the teacher to know.

Some books are longer, particularly as we reach the higher levels and so will take longer to complete. There is not a set day to bring staged books back as children should have these in school every day and they can be swapped once completed.

How can I support my child with their reading?

Our Treetops books have a short guide at the front of each book with quiz questions and ideas to extend your child's thinking when reading.

We have also included at the end of this letter some useful websites with top tips which might be useful, including for encouraging reluctant readers.

The most important thing is that we all show the children that we **hold reading in high regard** – as it is not only an important skill to help us learn and access learning but also can take us on adventures to new places, help us learn about new people and build our own imaginations!

What if I think my child is not reading the correct level?

There will be a period of adjustment after the summer break and in new classes. Teachers and Teaching Assistants will be reading with the children each week (which is why it is important they bring their book back and forth each day) and will adjust any as necessary.

We are focusing on building breadth and depth of reading, not necessarily moving them quickly through levels. This is so they experience a range of genres and text types and a variety of quality fiction from different authors.

Useful Websites

- [Oxford Owl](#) - visit the Oxford Owl website which has over 100 free ebooks for to enjoy with your child (it is free to register to access these)
- [Read Write Inc](#) - for more information and how to support your child with phonics and blending words when reading – particularly useful for parents of children in Years 2 and 3 or pupils who are having additional support with their reading.
- [Book Trust Top Tips](#) for reading with your child.
- [How to support reluctant readers](#) – Oxford Owls top tips to support children who are reluctant to read, including links to the benefits of continuing to read aloud with older readers and links to blogs with ideas for books to engage girls and boys.
- [Calderdale Libraries](#) – Find your nearest library, when it is open and what it offers. You can also see if they have any fun reading events coming up in the holidays (or for younger siblings too)

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs K.Lambert

Everybody, Everyday

