



Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September

## Class Book Boxes

Dear Parents and Carers,

We love reading at ACE and we wanted to share some reasons with you as to why reading is so important in a child's life.

Attached to this letter is what we do in school to support and celebrate reading, as well as things you can do at home to help improve reading skills.

With this, we would like to introduce our brand new class book boxes.

As you may have seen from last weeks edition of Highlights we are launching a new incentive to encourage children to read across the school. Each week 1 pupil from each class gets to take home the class book box. Inside contains a treat to enjoy, a task related to the book and the class reading journal.

In the Infants, the book boxes will also include the class cuddly mascot for your child to snuggle down and enjoy the book with. The boxes will go home each Thursday and are due to return to school on Monday, where the journal entries will be celebrated in class.

Please feel free to include photographs of the children enjoying their book along with their task.

Books will change every half-term and we try to link any non-fiction texts to the children's themes. All children across the classes will have the opportunity to take the book box home at some point across the academic year.

We ask that all items (other than the treat) are returned in the boxes and that they are looked after, so that they are kept nice for the next person.

We would like to thank you advance for your support in completing the entries and encouraging reading in this way. We hope that you all enjoy the class book boxes. We can't wait to see the children's entries.

Kind regards,

Miss H Beacham  
Head of School  
Ashford CE Primary School



## The Importance of Reading

The importance of reading for children cannot be underestimated. Reading for pleasure can benefit a child's education, social and cognitive development, their wellbeing, and their mental health.

Engaging with books allows us to be transported to other places and worlds. We can become immersed in the lives of fictional characters or learn more about the world around us.

Reading is a key life skill. It is placed at the heart of our curriculum; we have carefully selected texts which will ignite children's imagination, inspire their curiosity and provide a window to the world.

**It is commonly said that a child's future academic success and job prospects are directly related to their reading proficiency.**

### Parents in Partnership

It is crucial for both school and parents to actively teach their child to read. We need you to create a home environment where reading is encouraged and seen as a pleasurable experience.

**Spending just 10-15 minutes reading with your child every day will be invaluable in developing their ability and desire to read and learn.**

Reading is the  
key to success...



### High-quality books

We will ensure that your child has a reading book which is suitably pitched to build both confidence as a reader and fluency.

We will also provide your child with a free-choice library book for their enjoyment. Allowing children free choice helps them to develop their identities as a reader as they learn which books/authors they like and which they do not.

For highly competent readers we will support their exploration of books and as you child reaches year 6, and beyond our reading scheme, we provide extension and challenge texts.

### Supporting your child

- Read at least 3 times per week with your child
- Make reading time pleasurable by finding a quiet, comfortable space and giving your child your full attention.
- Ask your child simple questions as they read to check their understanding
- Use positive language and praise their reading efforts
- Read to your child as part of your evening routine. This builds vocabulary, feeds imagination and can even improve sleep patterns
- Ask them about books/ stories they are reading at school (your child's class books are shared on the termly overviews)

### School Routines

- Your child's reading book will be changed every week
- Reading records are checked regularly in school, and rewarded with stickers and the chance to be entered into the 'Golden Book' lucky dip.
- Children will have the opportunity to borrow books from the class and school library
- We read class texts every week, as well as a weekly reading for pleasure session.

