

Reading records – why are they useful?

Reading records are an important part of your child's reading journey. Reflecting on what one has read is an integral part of the reading process and allows your child to digest, better comprehend and thoughtfully respond to what they have read or listened to.

For younger children, this will tend to be a conversation between you and your child, which you can then make a brief note of in the reading record. As your child becomes more able and independent, they will increasingly note down their own thoughts and reflections, but it is lovely to still see parents and carers occasionally commenting on their child's reading at any age.

Entries in pupils' reading records can relate to anything they have read: their school book, a book from home, an audiobook, a book someone else has read to them, a magazine, comic, even a recipe. Notes in the reading record do not have to be lengthy and can be written at a later point or the next day if not convenient when reading. Some of our older children make their notes in their reading records the next morning after reading the previous evening. Having a selection of nice pens handy can provide good encouragement for children!

We understand that it is not always practical to record everything your child has read but giving a flavour of their reading experiences and taking a moment to reflect on a selection of these is hugely beneficial for your child's reading development.

Here are some of the key reasons reading records are useful:

- Jotting down some notes or a short comment as part of the reading process can help to establish a reading routine with your child
- New or exciting vocabulary can be harvested for children to use in their own work
- It allows for communication between the parent and teacher regarding what your child is reading, the progress the child is making and any difficulties you are experiencing
- It gives the teacher a prompt for further engaging your child in dialogue about reading
- It can help you to track (and celebrate) your child's progress
- Discussing reflections together helps children to develop meaningful relationships with the literature they read
- Reflecting on texts develops children's active reading strategies such as being able to infer, make predictions and summarise what they have read

As ever, if you have any questions or concerns about reading, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.