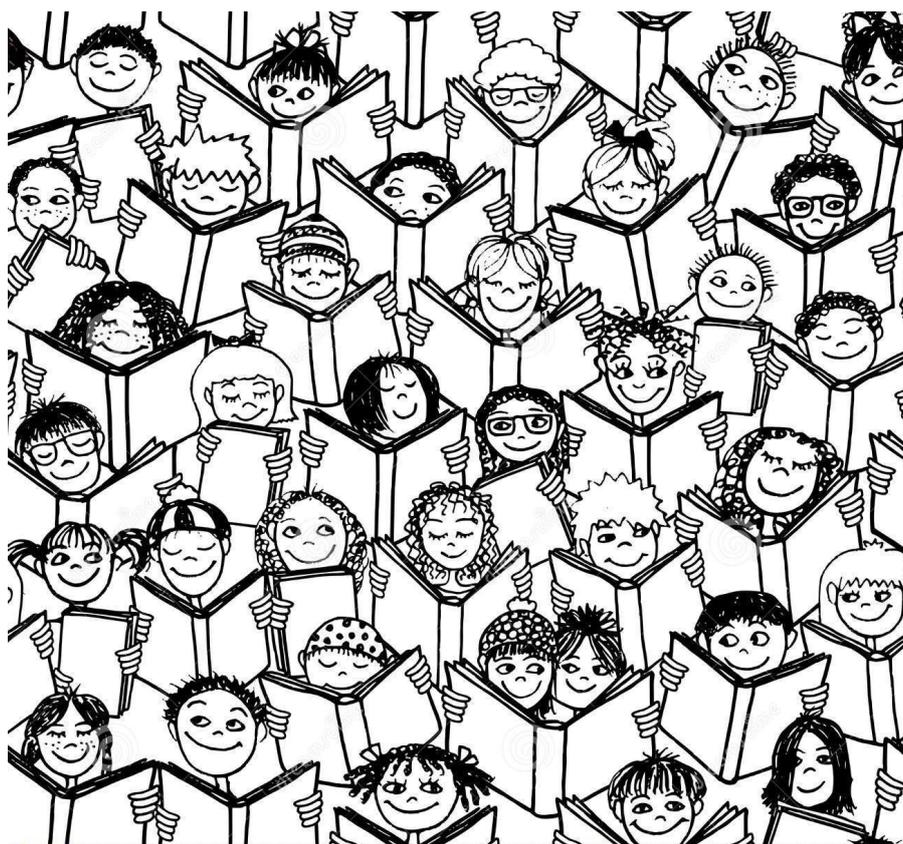




# Read for the Stars®



An information booklet for parents and carers

Summer Term 2017

Those of you who attended our Reading Evening will be aware that we have started a new reading initiative in school. This is in response to class teachers noticing a steep decline in the number of children reading at home.

Reading at home is incredibly important and it is important to do all you can to practise reading skills at home. It is hoped that the initiative will encourage our children to read regularly and is aimed at involving parents and carers in their child's Reading Journey.

To remind you, the initiative is called Read for the Stars and is designed to reward and incentivise both children and parents in the reading process. It has been running in KS1 and KS2 now since February half term and on Thursday 30th March, we had our wonderful Celebration Afternoon where 70 of our children were rewarded (along with their parents) with an afternoon tea as a thank you for their hard work, commitment and dedication to reading.

In school, the skills of reading are taught daily through phonics, guided reading sessions, whole class reading, sharing quality texts and one to one reading time. However, it is **vitally important** that these skills are practised regularly at home in order for your child to embed skills and become confident young readers.

### How does the scheme work?

The initiative asks children to read a minimum of 4 times per week (from Friday to Friday). Adults at home need to ensure that if their child reads, they sign their reading record as proof of this reading. If the child gains 4 or more signatures in a week, they will earn a star.

A couple of points to note for the forthcoming term are:

- Reading records must be brought in on a Friday to be checked and records brought in retrospectively will not be awarded stars
- Every time your child reads, they must obtain an adult's signature to prove this. Again, retrospective stars will not be given.

As you will all appreciate, we have to have certain guidelines that are adhered to within this initiative in order for it to be totally fair to all involved.

By the end of the Summer Term, the children will have had the opportunity to earn a total of 13 stars (one for each week we are in school). Those children earning all 13 stars will be invited to a celebration afternoon where both children and parents will be welcomed - it is important to note that both your children **and you as parents** will be rewarded and celebrated at the event. At Farndon School we appreciate the time and effort that **everyone** puts in to a child's reading journey.

If your child does not manage to earn all of their stars, there will still be huge incentives for certain milestones:

Stars gained	EYFS and KSI	KS2
3 star	10 house points	10 house points
5 stars	20 house points	20 house points
10 stars	30 house points	30 house points
12 stars	Extra playtime	Early lunch break
13 stars	Celebration event	Celebration event

At Farndon we are passionate about the importance of children learning to read and becoming confident and keen young readers. It is worth noting these points raised at our Reading Evening:

Evidence suggests that children who read for **enjoyment** every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures.

Reading for pleasure is more important for children's educational success than their family's socio-economic status.



*Reading for pleasure is the single biggest factor in success later in life, outside of an education.*

*Study after study has shown that those children who read for pleasure are the ones who are most likely to fulfil their ambitions. If your child reads, they will succeed - it's that simple.*

As we enter our final term, we hope that you will all fully support this initiative. With our Reception children now joining the initiative in the Summer Term, we anticipate that participation in reading at home will continue to increase across school.

We look forward to supporting you and your child's Reading Journey—see you on **Friday 21st July** for our next, hugely exciting Read for the Stars Celebration