

# The Willows

Greatbatch Avenue, Penkhull, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 7JY



## Primary School

Explore - Dream - Discover

Web: [www.willowsprimary.com](http://www.willowsprimary.com)

Email: [office@willowsprimary.com](mailto:office@willowsprimary.com)

Tel: (01782) 233280 Fax: (01782) 233282

Head Teacher: Mrs S Thursfield

Deputy Head: Mrs C Beltran

Assistant Head: Mrs A Ball

### Reading Champion Challenge in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

Reading is an integral part of life and learning and is fundamental to function in today's society. At the Willows we are committed to continue to raise the profile of reading throughout school and would like every child to enjoy and make excellent progress with their reading skills; therefore the school sets the Reading Champion Challenge.



The aim of the challenge is to motivate reluctant readers and praise those children who already read at least 5 times a week.

Children may have both **reading books** and **key word cards** to practise once they are ready to read.

**Green words** – Some children, particularly in Reception, are not yet ready for books so will have single words to practise. Once they become confident and fluent with reading these words they will progress to reading books.

**Key word cards** – There are 12 cards to work through, so depending on your child's ability, they will be on a specific number card. The more they practise, the quicker they move through the cards. Parental support is vital in learning these words.

**It is expected that every child achieves the reading challenge.**

To complete the challenge your child must;

- Read at home – this can be reading of green words, key word cards or reading books
- **Read or practise words for approximately 10/15 minutes per night, for a minimum of five nights a week to an adult**
- Discuss unknown words
- Bring their reading record/diary to school ***every Monday and Friday***

Ideally, children should read and practise words every day every day but we appreciate that some children and parents have very busy lives and cannot always achieve this. Children can read in the morning and the evening if they wish and this will be counted as 2 towards the 5. It is also perfectly acceptable for your child to read the same book twice, especially the younger children as this will increase their fluency, expression and understanding.

Each week your child's reading diary will be read and a stamp will be put in the diary if the challenge has been achieved. Therefore, it is very important that the diary is signed and dated each time your child has read their book and practised their key words and that the diary is brought to school ***every Monday & Friday***.

A record of your child's reading at home is kept by the class teacher, Mrs Ball and myself and participation in the reading challenge is rewarded in class, in our celebration assembly and on the weekly newsletter.



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### Rewards for achieving the Reading Champion Challenge

- Class stickers and the children receive a stamp on their Smiley chart.

We ask for your support with this challenge. Reading underpins all learning at school and parental support is vital in your child's progression.

Please come and speak with us if you are unsure of how to support your child with their reading and we can give you some top tips!

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING COVID 19

From September 2020 we will be following Gov.UK guidelines and making a few changes to the way we distribute reading books and ask parents to record their child's progress.

- For those children who are ready, two books will be given on a ***Monday***. We ask that these books are read daily and returned to school on a ***Friday***. Books will then be 'quarantined', which means that they will not be handled by anyone for at least 72 hours. One new book will be issued on a Friday, read over the weekend and returned to school the following Monday.
- Word/sound cards – Staff will not be handling these cards, however they will still be able to practise them with your child and therefore able to update them as necessary. Please ensure these are practised at home every day and come to school daily too.
- ***Recording reading*** – this year we will be recording home/school reading in a slightly different way. Parents will be asked to record their child's reading using a paper record (see attached template). Please enter the date, book, page number reached and your comments onto this. There is also a space for parents to write/type messages to the teacher. Teachers will need to see this record weekly, on a Monday, to check comments from parents and to see which children have achieved the reading challenge for the previous week. If they achieve the reading challenge they will receive a stamp in the circle. Reading records will be kept in a file at school.

Monday	1 book returned, 2 new books issued and reading record checked/stamped
Friday	2 books returned and 1 new book issued
<i>Accelerated Readers</i> in Y2	Children can change their books daily, depending on the length of the book, and after successful quizzing. As with other reading books, AR texts will also be quarantined for 72 hours before returning them to the choice boxes.

Thank you for your continued support.

*S Thursfield*

Mrs S. Thursfield

