



Thursday, 8th September 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Junior School updates to Reading and Writing

You may be aware that your child is yet to bring home a reading book. This is because we are in the process of introducing a very exciting new reading scheme called Accelerated Reader (AR). AR is a reading program used in many schools around the country; it has been proven to help increase a child's motivation to read and targets specific interventions as required to ensure progress. Your child will ultimately be able to independently select appropriately challenging books, read more often, and with greater comprehension whilst using AR.

AR achieves great results, but it is really a simple program. Children read and complete levelled books, from our extensive AR book list, and then take a multiple-choice test on a computer/iPad. I will write to you with further detailed information, on how the program works, once it has been launched. This is likely to be in the next fortnight.

The teachers and teacher assistants will still hear your child read during this time of adjustment. Library sessions will be spent reading the allocated class reader, both individually to an adult or together as a class. Reading homework is still expected to be completed daily. For this, your child may select their own book from home. This would be a valuable opportunity to visit a local library with your child: they have an amazing selection of both fiction and non-fiction books.

Another new addition to English in the Junior School is the introduction of a pen licence. Once the Form Teacher deems a child in Year 3 or 4 as ready to move on from writing in pencil, they will be awarded their Pen Licence. They will also be given their first handwriting pen by school. This will be a blue Manuscript Handwriting Pen. It is this brand and design that we then recommend you purchase in the future. The children in Years 5 and 6 will have the opportunity to be awarded with a Free Writer Licence. This will be awarded to those children who have consistently applied the school handwriting style and means that they will then be able to develop their own style further.

Your and your child's patience during this brief period of adjustment with the Library is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'A Trafford'.

Miss A Trafford
English Subject Leader