



# Gaddesden Row JMI School

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## Reading at home

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Gaddesden Row School, we believe that learning to read is one of the most important things your child will ever do. Reading unlocks learning across every subject, builds vocabulary, strengthens writing, and helps children make sense of the world around them. Most importantly, we want all our pupils to develop a genuine love of books and confidence as readers.

School and home work best in partnership. The support you give at home—little and often—makes a huge difference to your child's progress. Below is a reminder of how reading works at Gaddesden Row, along with a few tips that can make reading at home easier and more meaningful.

### **Reading Expectations**

- Every child will receive a named zip wallet for taking reading books to and from school.
- Reading books and reading records must be brought into school *every day*.
- We expect children to read at home at least five times a week. Short, regular sessions (5–10 minutes) make a bigger difference than one long weekend read.
- A parent or carer should sign the reading record each time. Comments such as new words learned, any tricky parts, or a brief note about understanding are extremely helpful.
- Children are rewarded in school for regular home reading.

### **Book Changing System**

- Each child has a set weekly day for book changing.
- If your child finishes their book early, please encourage them to re-read it. This is important and purposeful:

1st read: decoding the words

2nd read: building fluency and confidence

3rd read: improving expression and deepening understanding

- Longer chapter books will likely take more than a week to complete — this is completely fine.
- On book-changing day, an adult will hear your child read and ensure their book is matched to both their phonics stage *and* their reading confidence.
- Early readers are expected to read their book three times as outlined above—this is proven to accelerate progress and build secure reading foundations.

### **Lost or Damaged Books**

Reading books are valuable school resources and we need to keep track of them so that all children continue to have access to high-quality texts.

- A reminder letter will be issued if a book is not brought in during the week.
- If it is still not returned the following week, a £5 replacement fee will be requested. A new book will still be issued so reading can continue.
- If a child misplaces two separate books, they will be asked to keep their reading book in school only.
- If a lost book is later found, please return it to the office and we will remove any charges.

### **How You Can Support Reading at Home**

Parents often ask what they can do to make the biggest difference. Here are the habits that have the strongest impact on progress:

1. Make reading relaxed and positive. Little and often works best. Children make the most progress when reading feels enjoyable, not rushed.

2. Talk about the book. Ask simple questions:

- What happened in the story?
- Why do you think the character did that?
- What do you predict will happen next?

This builds vocabulary and comprehension, which are essential for later success.

3. Encourage reading everywhere—not just school books. All reading counts:

- comics and magazines
- recipes
- instructions
- football programmes
- library books
- signs and posters

Children who see reading as part of everyday life become stronger, more confident readers.

4. Celebrate mistakes and model strategies. If your child gets stuck, prompt them to:

- sound out the word
- re-read the sentence
- look at pictures or context clues

Praise effort and perseverance.

5. Let your child see you reading. When children see adults enjoying books, newspapers or even articles on a screen, it sends a powerful message: reading matters.

Thank you for supporting your child's reading journey. Together, we can help every child become a confident, fluent and enthusiastic reader.

Kind regards,

Hannah Smith

Headteacher